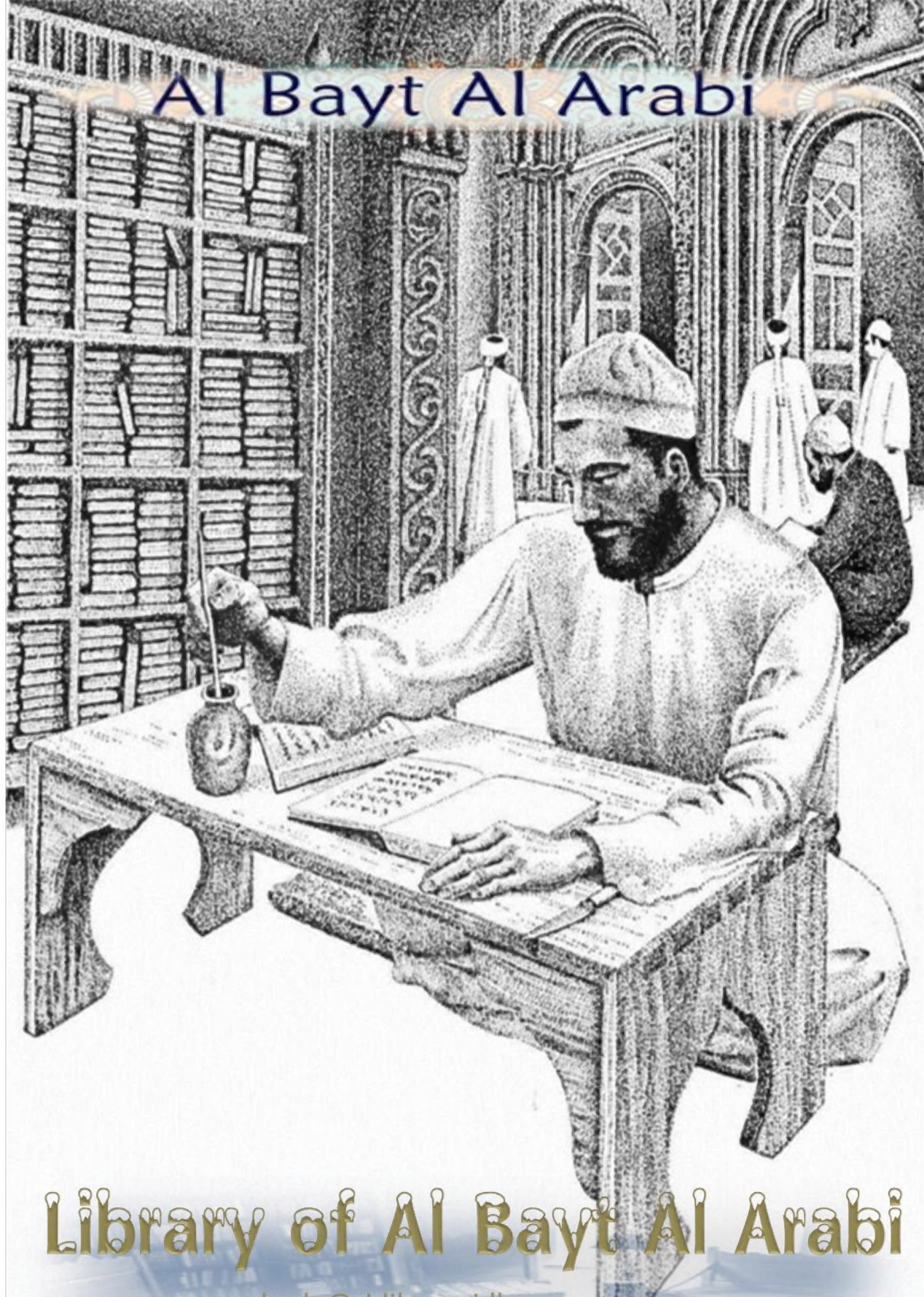


# Dialect Geography of Syria-Palestine 1000-586 B.C.E.



*W. Randall Garr*

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DIALECT GEOGRAPHY OF SYRIA-PALESTINE,

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1000–586 B.C.E.

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W. RANDALL GARR

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*For my mother  
and the memory of my father*

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# ABBREVIATIONS

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|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| ABL               | Robert Francis Harper, <i>Assyrian and Babylonian Letters Belonging to the Kouyunjik Collection of the British Museum</i> . |
| ADAJ              | <i>Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan</i> .  |
| ADD               | C. H. W. Johns, <i>Assyrian Deeds and Documents</i> .   |
| AF                | Franz Rosenthal, <i>Die aramaistische Forschung seit Th. Nöldeke's Veröffentlichungen</i> .                                 |
| AfO               | <i>Archiv für Orientforschung</i> .   |
| AION              | <i>Annali dell'Istituto orientale di Napoli</i> (Nuova Serie).  |
| AJBA              | <i>Australian Journal of Biblical Archaeology</i> .   |
| AJSL              | <i>American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures</i> .  |
| Akk.              | Akkadian.   |
| ANET <sup>3</sup> | James B. Pritchard (ed.), <i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> . 3rd ed. with Supplement.        |
| AOAT              | <i>Alter Orient und Altes Testament</i> .   |
| AoF               | <i>Altorientalische Forschungen</i> .   |
| Arab.             | Arabic.   |
| ArOr              | <i>Archiv Orientalní</i> .  |



|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Arsl.T. | Arslan Tash Phoenician texts.  |
| AS      | <i>Anatolian Studies</i> .   |
| ASOR    | American Schools of Oriental Research.   |
| AUSS    | <i>Andrews University Seminary Studies</i> .   |
| BA      | <i>Beiträge zur Assyriologie und semitischen Sprachwissenschaft</i> (1889–1927); <i>The Biblical Archaeologist</i> (1938– ). |
| BASOR   | <i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> .   |
| BH      | Biblical Hebrew.   |
| Bibl    | <i>Biblica</i> .   |
| BiOr    | <i>Bibliotheca Orientalis</i> .  |
| BJPES   | <i>Bulletin of the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society</i> .  |
| B-L     | Hans Bauer and Pontus Leander, <i>Historical Grammatik der hebräischen Sprache des Alten Testaments</i> .                    |
| BMAP    | Emil G. Kraeling (ed.), <i>The Brooklyn Museum Aramaic Papyri</i> .  |
| BMB     | <i>Bulletin du Musée de Beyrouth</i> .   |
| Bus.    | Buseirah ostrakon.   |
| BZAW    | Beiheft zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft.  |
| C       | <i>Consonant</i> .   |
| CBQ     | <i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i> .   |
| CIS     | Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum.  |
| Cit.    | Amman Citadel Inscription.   |
| CTA     | Andrée Herdner, <i>Corpus des tablettes en cunéiformes alphabétiques découvertes à Ras Shamra-Ugarit de 1929 à 1939</i> .    |
| EA      | El-Amarna.   |
| EHO     | Frank M. Cross and David N. Freedman, <i>Early Hebrew Orthography</i> .  |
| EI      | <i>Eretz-Israel</i> .  |
| ESA     | Epigraphic South Arabian.  |
| Eth.    | Ethiopic.  |
| Fekh.   | Fekheriyeh Aramaic inscription.  |
| GAG     | Wolfram von Soden, <i>Grundriss der akkadischen Grammatik</i> .  |
| GKC     | <i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> , edited by E. Kautzsch and A. E. Cowley. 28th ed.   |

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| GvG        | Carl Brockelmann, <i>Grundriss der vergleichenden Grammatik der semitischen Sprachen</i> . 2 vols. |
| H          | Hadad inscription (KAI 214).   |
| Hesh. Ost. | Heshbon ostrakon.  |
| HTR        | <i>Harvard Theological Review</i> .  |
| HUCA       | <i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i> .   |
| IEJ        | <i>Israel Exploration Journal</i> .  |
| IJAL       | <i>International Journal of American Linguistics</i> .   |
| JANES      | <i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society of Columbia University</i> .                        |
| JAOS       | <i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> .  |
| JBL        | <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> .  |
| JCS        | <i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i> .  |
| JJS        | <i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i> .   |
| JKF        | <i>Jahrbuch für kleinasiatische Forschung</i> .  |
| JNES       | <i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i> .   |
| JNSL       | <i>Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages</i> .  |
| JPOS       | <i>Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society</i> .   |
| JSS        | <i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i> .  |
| KAI        | Herbert Donner and Wolfgang Röllig, <i>Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften</i> . 3 vols.       |
| KAI        | <i>Ibid.</i> (text number).  |
| Lach.      | Lachish letter.  |
| Lg.        | <i>Language</i> .  |
| MDOG       | <i>Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft</i> .  |
| Mur.       | Murabba'ât Hebrew inscription.   |
| MUSJ       | <i>Mélanges de l'Université Saint-Joseph</i> .   |
| MVÄG       | <i>Mitteilungen der Vorderasiatisch-Aegyptischen Gesellschaft</i> .                                |
| NESE       | <i>Neue Ephemeris für Semitische Epigraphie</i> .  |
| NP         | Neo-Punic inscription (see KAI 3: 74–77).  |
| NSI        | George A. Cooke, <i>A Text-Book of North-Semitic Inscriptions</i> .                                |
| NWS        | Northwest Semitic.   |
| O          | Object.  |
| OLP        | <i>Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica</i> .  |
| OLZ        | <i>Orientalistische Literaturzeitung</i> .   |
| Or         | <i>Orientalia</i> (Nova series).   |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <i>Or Ant</i>          | <i>Oriens Antiquus.</i>   |
| <i>P</i>               | Panammu inscription (KAI 215).  |
| <i>PAPhS</i>           | <i>Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society.</i>                             |
| <i>PEFQS</i>           | <i>Palestine Exploration Fund, Quarterly Statement.</i>                               |
| <i>PEQ</i>             | <i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly.</i>   |
| <i>PN</i>              | Personal name.  |
| <i>PPG</i>             | Johannes Friedrich, <i>Phönizisch-Punische Grammatik.</i>                             |
| <i>PPG<sup>2</sup></i> | Johannes Friedrich and Wolfgang Röllig, <i>Phönizisch-Punische Grammatik.</i> 2nd ed. |
| <i>QDAP</i>            | <i>Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine.</i>                       |
| <i>RA</i>              | <i>Revue d'Assyriologie et d'archéologie orientale.</i>                               |
| <i>RB</i>              | <i>Revue biblique.</i>  |
| <i>RHR</i>             | <i>Revue de l'histoire des religions.</i>   |
| <i>RS</i>              | <i>Revue sémitique.</i>   |
| <i>RSF</i>             | <i>Rivista di studi fenici.</i>   |
| <i>RSO</i>             | <i>Rivista degli studi orientali.</i>   |
| <i>S</i>               | Subject.  |
| <i>SBLMS</i>           | Society of Biblical Literature, Monograph Series.                                     |
| <i>Sf.</i>             | Sfire inscription (KAI 222–224).  |
| <i>Sir.</i>            | Tell Siran bottle inscription.  |
| <i>SMS</i>             | <i>Syro-Mesopotamian Studies.</i>   |
| <i>UT</i>              | Cyrus H. Gordon, <i>Ugaritic Textbook.</i>  |
| <i>UT</i>              | <i>Ibid.</i> (text number).   |
| <i>V</i>               | Verb.   |
| <i>V</i>               | Vowel.  |
| <i>VESO</i>            | William F. Albright, <i>The Vocalization of the Egyptian Syllabic Orthography.</i>    |
| <i>VT</i>              | <i>Vetus Testamentum.</i>   |
| <i>VTs</i>             | <i>Vetus Testamentum, Supplement.</i>   |
| <i>WO</i>              | <i>Die Welt des Orients.</i>  |
| <i>WZKM</i>            | <i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes.</i>                             |
| <i>ZA</i>              | <i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und verwandte Gebiete.</i>                            |
| <i>ZAW</i>             | <i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft.</i>                            |
| <i>ZDMG</i>            | <i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft.</i>                       |
| <i>ZDPV</i>            | <i>Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins.</i>                                   |
| <i>ZS</i>              | <i>Zeitschrift für Semitistik und verwandte Gebiete.</i>                              |

# INTRODUCTION

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Dialectal variation in a given area is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a by-product of historical, political, and socioeconomic forces. Other factors also influence dialect formation, be they the physical contours of the land (for example, mountains), political boundaries, trade routes, or religious taboos. Dialectal variation results from a complex of factors which affect, either directly or indirectly, human communication.<sup>1</sup>

The area under examination is Syria-Palestine, between 1000 and 586 B.C.E. This period was selected for several reasons. First, it marks the beginning and end of the Israelite state; 1000 B.C.E. is a convenient date for the beginning of the Davidic rule, and 586 B.C.E. marks the fall of Jerusalem.<sup>2</sup> The dates chosen thus represent the time during which Israel was a political and military entity. Second, something of the history of Syria-Palestine during this period is known.<sup>3</sup> The alliances of the individual nations, their battles, their social and economic contacts—these types of human interaction affect linguistic contact between peoples. Third, these dates were chosen for the purely practical reason of including as many texts as possible in this study. The larger the data base, the greater the possibility of drawing accurate linguistic conclusions from the available



inscriptions. Thus the period 1000–586 B.C.E. provides an acceptable chronological frame from both the historical and linguistic viewpoint.

The relationship among the Northwest Semitic speech forms<sup>4</sup> of Syria-Palestine from 1000 to 586 B.C.E. is complex. In this relatively small area, there appear to be a number of discrete speech forms. While some speech forms cluster into groups, as for example the Aramaic-speaking communities in the North, others appear idiosyncratic, as for example the dialect of Deir Alla. By assembling all available data, it should be possible to classify each speech form and explain the linguistic relationship among the NWS dialects.

In the past, linguistic classification of the NWS dialects has yielded differing results. For example Albright<sup>5</sup> subdivided Canaanite into northern (the area around Ugarit),<sup>6</sup> eastern (Syrian desert to Sinai, and parts of Palestine), southern (Phoenicia, and most of Syria-Palestine), and Hebraic branches (Jerusalem). In his Phoenician grammar, Harris<sup>7</sup> adopted Albright's basic classification but divided the area into North (Ugarit), Middle (Phoenicia), and South (southern Syria, and Palestine). And Segert<sup>8</sup> proposed the divisions into northern (Ugarit), inland (Hebrew/Israel), coastal (Phoenicia), and peripheral inland groups (Ammon, Moab, and Edom). These scholars either adduced one linguistic feature to support their classification or adduced no linguistic features at all; in the latter case, their general survey of the material led them to their particular classification.

Classification of the individual NWS dialects has been equally idiosyncratic. Examination of the Deir Alla dialect has yielded classifications as Old Aramaic,<sup>9</sup> Ammonite,<sup>10</sup> South Canaanite,<sup>11</sup> Midianite,<sup>12</sup> and Gileadite.<sup>13</sup> Samalian has been classified as a local Aramaic<sup>14</sup> and as an independent dialect.<sup>15</sup> Similarly, Ammonite is seen to be South Canaanite<sup>16</sup> or North Arabic.<sup>17</sup> Many of the variations in the classification of the individual dialects have resulted from the actual choice of linguistic features deemed dialectally significant for classification.

In all these cases, the classificatory scheme is methodologically constrained. Either the classification proceeds from an impressionistic inspection of the material.<sup>18</sup> Or, the classification is based upon those particular linguistic elements selected for examination.<sup>19</sup> The lack of methodological controls in both cases has made resultant classifications highly subjective.<sup>20</sup>

The method and results of dialect geography produce a new perspective on the interrelationship and classification of the NWS dialects. Dialect geography is, in effect, the study of linguistic differentiation and interrelation in a given area at a given time.<sup>21</sup> It seeks a planar layout<sup>22</sup> of all linguistic features which differentiate speech areas. Dialect geography seeks an aerial view of linguistic differentiation by plotting all dialectally significant linguistic features on a map.

On the one hand, dialect geography traces individual linguistic features throughout a region.<sup>23</sup> An isogloss, or linguistic boundary line, is then drawn between the areas where one feature is found and those where a different feature occurs. The isoglosses of all features mapped can then be compared to see how the distribution of isoglosses varies throughout the area. At this level, dialect geography enables the scholar to see the interrelationships between the dialects.

On the other hand, however, dialect geography is, according to Bloomfield, "the study of local differentiations in a speech-area."<sup>24</sup> The focus shifts from the examination of linguistic features and their distribution to the description of individual dialect regions. Each speech area is characterized by its unique distribution, and combination, of features.<sup>25</sup> Dialect geography "seeks to provide an empirical basis for conclusions about the linguistic variety that occurs in a certain locale."<sup>26</sup> At this level, dialect geography enables the scholar to characterize the individual dialects.

In its utilization of every linguistic feature differentiating speech areas, dialect geography seeks a complete data base in determining dialectal relationship. All features, whether phonological, morphological, syntactic, or lexical, are charted on maps, provided that each feature sets off one dialectal region from another. The features themselves are of equal importance; no one differentiating feature is, *a priori*, more important than another.<sup>27</sup> The planar presentation of all such features in an area is a goal of dialect geography.

Some of the results of dialect geographical studies are important in a classification of the NWS dialects. Studies of dialect geography have shown that linguistic changes spread from one area to another, through different types of human contact.<sup>28</sup> A number of changes may originate in a single place and slowly diffuse to outlying regions. Areas where such changes cluster are linguistic centers; outlying areas which display some, but not all, of the changes are marginal,

or peripheral.<sup>29</sup> An area which did not receive changes is isolated as a dialect island; conversely, a dialect island is one where a number of changes occurred but did not spread outward.<sup>30</sup> Further, areas which accept changes of two linguistic centers, or lie midway between them linguistically, are transitional, since they bear characteristics of both centers.<sup>31</sup>

Three<sup>32</sup> scholars have been especially important in the application of dialect geography to Syria-Palestine.<sup>33</sup> Bergsträsser<sup>34</sup> is methodologically most conservative. In his study of modern, spoken Arabic dialects in Syria-Palestine, he has presented the spread of relevant linguistic data on individual maps. He has also correlated physical and social boundaries with linguistic (dialectal) divisions.<sup>35</sup> Bergsträsser has avoided classification and dialect characterization altogether<sup>36</sup> but has presented the spread of dialectally significant linguistic elements—phonological, morphological, syntactic, and lexical—throughout Syria-Palestine.

Harris expanded Bergsträsser's scope of inquiry in his *Development of the Canaanite Dialects*.<sup>37</sup> His book is properly a "linguistic history" of Syria-Palestine; Harris' principal concern is diachrony. Instead of presenting a static picture of the distribution of linguistic elements in a restricted area, as Bergsträsser intended,<sup>38</sup> Harris traced the development and diffusion of linguistic changes throughout the history of the Canaanite language group. In his concluding analysis, however, Harris returned to the synchronic domain of dialect geography and briefly characterized "the resultant dialects" which emerged in the course of the linguistic development.

Harris predicated a division of the Canaanite dialects upon a detailed analysis of the linguistic evidence. This linguistic history suggested, according to Harris, a dialectal division into coastal (Ugarit, Sam'al, and Phoenicia) and inland groups (Hebrew, Moab, and Hamat<sup>39</sup>).<sup>40</sup> Coastal dialects were the more innovative, since many changes occurred there. Inland dialects tended to be conservative, for they not only produced few convergent changes but also did not accept every change which took place on the coast.<sup>41</sup> Like Bergsträsser, Harris based his linguistic divisions upon linguistic data, instead of upon an impressionistic survey of the evidence. Unlike Bergsträsser, however, Harris qualitatively evaluated the linguistic evidence and proposed a linguistic classification based upon the types of linguistic changes apparent in each area.

Rabin<sup>42</sup> synthesized the work of Bergsträsser and Harris, while expanding its scope still further. Like Bergsträsser's, Rabin's study is synchronic, "ignoring the time factor and treating the various dialects as coexisting each in the location in which we first encounter it. . . ."<sup>43</sup> Like Harris, Rabin applied the methodology and concepts of dialect geography to Semitic (as for example innovative and conservative areas [central and marginal] and transitional areas). On the basis of the particular distribution of linguistic elements, Rabin sought a new classification of the Semitic languages. He divided them into northern marginal (Fertile Crescent), southern marginal (Aksum influence), and central areas (Mediterranean to Arabia).<sup>44</sup>

Each of these scholars has had his methodological successors. Garbini's *Il semitico di nord-ovest*<sup>45</sup> most closely approximates Bergsträsser's approach to dialectology. In this book, Garbini traced individual phonological, accentual, and morphological features which differentiate the Northwest Semitic dialects. Like Bergsträsser, Garbini assembled and examined every linguistic feature deemed dialectally significant in NWS.<sup>46</sup> Unlike Bergsträsser, though, Garbini's goal was the characterization of the individual dialects in a historical frame.

Harris' concluding classification of coastal vs. inland Canaanite has gained only one partial supporter. Segert<sup>47</sup> adopted a classification approximating Harris', dividing the Canaanite dialects into northern, coastal, inland, and peripheral inland groups. But the similarity between Segert's and Harris' divisions was largely coincidental; Harris based his conclusions upon linguistic features, whereas Segert's divisions were, in effect, largely geographical in nature.

Methodologically, however, several scholars have followed Harris' lead in distinguishing between conservative and innovative dialect(al area)s. Rabin was the first to apply this method to the classification of the Semitic languages in general. Diakonoff<sup>48</sup> also applied this method to the Semitic languages, but he concluded that they could be accurately divided into northern peripheral (Akkadian), northern central (NWS), southern central (Arabic dialects), and southern peripheral groups (South Arabian and Ethiopic). And finally, Garbini<sup>49</sup> followed Rabin by pinpointing the innovative area of the Semitic languages in Syria-Palestine itself, but attributed the innovative impulse to a progressive "Amoritization." According to



Garbini,<sup>50</sup> Rabin's "central axis" corresponded to a proposed Amrite-Aramaic-Arabic language group.

« » « »

This study employs much of the methodology which scholars have previously used. It has two goals. The first, following Bergsträsser, is the isolation and presentation of all dialectally significant linguistic features. Any feature, whether phonological, morphological, or syntactic, which divides Syria-Palestine into dialect regions is traced throughout the first-millennium NWS dialects. The result is a tabular display of the distribution of features throughout the dialects.

Whereas phonology, morphology, and syntax are employed in the dialectal analysis, it is impossible to analyze the lexicon for this purpose.<sup>51</sup> Although such an analysis is potentially valid for first-millennium NWS, the extant texts do not offer sufficient lexical material to make possible an interdialectal analysis. Lexical comparison should be based upon a standardized list of core vocabulary items found in all cultures at all times—the Swadesh list.<sup>52</sup> Yet few of the lexical items in the Swadesh list appear in the preserved texts. Without complete Swadesh lists for each dialect, lexical comparison becomes inexact. Although a lexical analysis may be used in the future, with the discovery of additional texts, it is not feasible at present.

While the first goal of this study is the presentation of distinctive dialect features in first-millennium NWS, the second is the classification of the extant dialects on the basis of these features. The focus shifts from the distribution of features themselves to the composition of the individual dialects. The features will be analyzed in order to produce a classificatory scheme based on the totality of linguistic features present. Like Harris and Rabin, then, this study seeks to produce a linguistic classification based upon an analysis of significant diagnostic linguistic features. The result is an organic classificatory scheme of NWS dialects in Syria-Palestine in the early first millennium B.C.E.

« » « »

In this study, "Syria-Palestine" is used in its widest sense. It includes not only ancient Israel (Palestine) and the Aramean states

(Syria), but also the Transjordanian states of Ammon, Moab, and Edom, the coastal city-states of Phoenicia, as well as the polyglottal communities on the northern periphery, as for example Karatepe (Syria-Anatolia) and Arslan Tash (Syria-Mesopotamia). "Syria-Palestine" designates all areas west and north of the Syrian desert in which a Northwest Semitic dialect was spoken.

In this sense, Syria-Palestine was a geographical unit.<sup>53</sup> It was set within the confines of the Mediterranean Sea (west), the desert (east and south) and the northern mountain ranges. Yet the area was not physically homogeneous. Mountains, rivers, valleys, deserts, forests, and other physical features divided Syria-Palestine into numerous geographical subunits. Within a short distance, the topography could vary considerably. In general, the terrain is rough and dry.

The topography of Syria-Palestine did not promote easy communication. The land itself was composed of small geographical subunits disconnected from other subunits; its effect was to isolate instead of to facilitate communication. People tended not to move about freely but stayed in their own region. Communication tended to be local.<sup>54</sup>

Topography also contributed to the appearance of independent local governments throughout Syria-Palestine. In pre-Davidic times, the area was characterized by numerous, city-state, political systems governed by local chiefs. In the Aramean and Phoenician city-states, Edom, and Israel, government was local and independent. Centralization, and national unity, developed somewhat later in certain parts of the region, notably in Jerusalem. The overall picture of Syro-Palestinian government is political segmentation.<sup>55</sup>

Trade routes served to counterbalance this tendency to fragmentation.<sup>56</sup> Two principal trade routes cut through the area longitudinally, and a series of lesser routes bridged the eastern and western extremes. The *Via Maris* connected Phoenicia, Israel, and Judah through its various branches. The King's Highway traversed Transjordan from Damascus, through Ammon and Moab, to Edom. Other routes ran between larger cities in the interior and provided a complex network of trade and communication.

The western seaports, the eastern trade stations, and all other points on the edge of these routes were extremely important in the linguistic development of Syria-Palestine. Since these areas lay on the periphery, their inhabitants communicated with foreigners, ex-



**MAP 1:** Map of Syria-Palestine (adopted from Erwin Raisz' Landform Map of the Near East).

changed both commodities and ideas, and served not only as commercial centers but as cultural centers as well. Through travel and trade along these routes, new ideas and ways were brought to the interior. In this way, the obstacles of the topography and polity were partially overcome. Although communication was essentially local, new forms of speech gradually filtered through the land as a result of these traveling traders.

« » « »

Dialect geography is usually concerned with the recording and mapping of current speech patterns.<sup>57</sup> Dialect geographers are able to talk to their informants, elicit a number of responses, and record the different responses from each speaker. The informants themselves are carefully selected. They should be native to the area examined without having traveled a great deal, they should have been schooled in their own communities, and they should speak the dialect of their particular community.<sup>58</sup> In eliciting responses, the dialect geographer tries to engage the informant in a natural, unselfconscious speech; he wants to capture the everyday, common speech pattern.<sup>59</sup>

Similarly, the choice of communities examined is important. A variety of community types ensures a variety of informants.<sup>60</sup> Native speech patterns are best seen in long-settled, nonurban, sedentary communities; the absence of newcomers guards against serious external linguistic influence, while the sedentary nature of the community itself keeps speech patterns native and internal. A community may be located in a variety of places—for example in the hills or on a plain—which will likewise affect settlement and speech patterns. Of course, social structure within each community has its effect on speech patterns as well.<sup>61</sup>

The procedure in studying urban dialectology is more unsure.<sup>62</sup> The representativeness of the informants of native speech patterns becomes uncertain because of the size and complexity of the community. The “normal” speech of the larger communities is difficult to capture; socially, culturally, and economically stratified societies produce a variety of speech patterns. Because of the diversity of informants, many factors complicate a study of dialect geography in urban areas.

The method of gaining linguistic information must be modified when treating an ancient period.<sup>63</sup> Informants cannot be questioned. Communities and native speakers cannot be selected firsthand for investigation. It may be impossible to isolate nonlinguistic factors affecting speech habits, as for example class and occupation. In other words, the linguistic investigator is largely dependent upon the preserved sources.

These sources are written. Linguistic information, then, is gained through the intermediary of the written language. Phonetic differences in speech, exact phonetic realizations of phonemes, and regional language variation must be filtered through the camouflage of the written language.<sup>64</sup> Although the written and spoken languages were not necessarily different,<sup>65</sup> the conventional practices of orthography did tend to obscure individual linguistic differences among speakers.<sup>66</sup> The written language, then, had a leveling effect.

The texts themselves are not consistent. There are royal inscriptions, commemorative and funerary inscriptions, graffiti, letters, and other kinds of documents, each written for a different purpose and by people of different backgrounds and classes.<sup>67</sup> The representativeness of such texts, vis-à-vis the entire population, is uncertain. Further, since some texts are literary and designed to be preserved into future generations, individual linguistic differences may have been suppressed. The requirements of the standard literary language can, in many cases, have superseded the speech form of the speaker.<sup>68</sup> Many dialectal differences, then, cannot be recovered.

Further, the dates of the texts vary considerably. The Gezer Calendar is dated to the tenth century B.C.E., and the Old Byblian inscriptions are roughly contemporary. The Mesha inscription is mid-ninth century. The Hadad and Panammu inscriptions date from a century later. And the Lachish letters are sixth-century documents. These texts, then, are not contemporary in the strictest sense.

The scribal intermediary also complicates the recovery of linguistic data. Since scribes were school-trained, they wrote in the literary, educated language of the elite, not that of the common individual. Further, a scribe may have written texts in his native tongue as well as that of another; for example, the "Aramaic" scribal practices in the Arslan Tash Phoenician texts suggest that the scribe was not Phoenician but Aramean.<sup>69</sup> Scribes were also imported from the outside to write royal inscriptions and other documents.<sup>70</sup> Thus

the scribe brings new problems to the use of the epigraphic material for dialectological study. The possible nonrepresentativeness of the inscriptions, then, is a warning against attaching too much importance to each document.

Native speech patterns may be difficult to recover on the basis of the extant texts. In several communities, at least two different dialects may have been spoken concurrently. For example, both Aramaic texts and texts of another, unidentified dialect were found in Deir Alla.<sup>71</sup> Aramaic and Phoenician texts were found in Arslan Tash. Akkadian and Aramaic texts appeared in Tell Fekheriyeh. Karatepe shows Phoenician and Hittite texts. And Sam'al witnesses texts in Phoenician, Aramaic, and the local Samalian dialect. It is unclear, then, whether native speakers were multilingual or whether only the scribes were versed in different speech forms.

Transplanted languages also present difficulties to linguistic analysis.<sup>72</sup> The degree to which the transplanted language represents the speech form of the homeland and the degree to which it has changed in its new environment are immediate problems. For example, commercial interests brought the Phoenicians far afield to areas where no Semitic language was spoken. The Phoenician of Karatepe represents such a transplantation; the Phoenician language had been carried to far-off Anatolia.<sup>73</sup> Ironically, in the case of Phoenician, transplantations constitute the largest bulk of standard Phoenician linguistic data.

The difficulties in evaluating the linguistic material of first-millennium Syria-Palestine are unquestionable. In order to obviate some of these difficulties, it is best to assemble NWS linguistic evidence from all extant texts. Although the texts are unevenly distributed throughout the area, they provide the greatest clue to speech patterns. It is impossible to conduct a random sample<sup>74</sup> or a selective, systematic survey<sup>75</sup> on the basis of the present data base, since the texts are relatively few. Within these limitations, only a complete assembly of texts can provide the basis for a dialect map of Syria-Palestine.

The inscriptions themselves provide the largest, and most valuable, data base for a study of Syro-Palestinian dialect geography in the first millennium B.C.E. Since the provenience and date of the texts are known for the most part, they can be used as evidence of a particular community's speech form. Thus inscriptions are the primary linguistic source in this study.

If, however, direct evidence for a particular linguistic feature is missing from epigraphic sources, other material must be consulted. Personal names may reflect native speech patterns and therefore may be helpful in dialectal study. For example, Hallo and Tadmor<sup>76</sup> have noted "the earliest evidence for the sound-shift  $\hat{a} > \hat{o}$ " in the personal name <sup>m</sup>*DUMU-ḥa-nu-ta*; the element *ḥa-nu-ta*, [<sup>h</sup>anöt],<sup>77</sup> is a doublet of \*<sup>h</sup>*anāt*. Bauer<sup>78</sup> has made a synthetic study of Hebrew personal names in order to show the different phonological, morphological, and lexical influences they reflect. And Rabin<sup>79</sup> has shown that biblical personal names conform to the Barth-Ginsberg law. Personal names, then, may fill the gap when epigraphic material yields no linguistic information.

Where no contemporary linguistic data are available, later linguistic material may be consulted. For example, if a certain feature does not appear in the extant Phoenician texts of 1000–586 B.C.E., the evidence of Punic may be used as indirect testimony of the feature in the older linguistic phase. Similarly, if a feature does not appear in the extant epigraphic Hebrew texts, Masoretic Hebrew may be adduced as evidence. But, in this case, Masoretic Hebrew is used with caution. It does not represent one Hebrew dialect but probably a mixture of dialect traditions.<sup>80</sup> Further, some regular features of Masoretic Hebrew, such as anaptyxis in \**qVtl-* nouns, are demonstrably late;<sup>81</sup> the projection of late features into the early first millennium B.C.E. would be a false inference. Thus biblical Hebrew evidence can be used only when it is apparently representative of the earlier language as well.

Scholars have also employed place names in linguistic analysis. The changes reflected in a place name may reflect changes in the native, spoken language. Gelb,<sup>82</sup> for example, distinguished second-millennium Canaanite (Palestine and Phoenicia) from Amorite (Amurru, Alalakh, and Ugarit) on the basis of place names ending in *-ūnālī* vs. *-ānu*; according to Gelb, the *ū* of *-ūnālī* reflects the Canaanite correspondence \**ā*:[*ō*]. Friedrich<sup>83</sup> claimed that the vowel shift \**ā* > [*ō*] reached the Phoenician coast only by the eighth century, pointing to the place names *Ba<sup>2</sup>-lī-ra-sī* (Shalmaneser III, 858–824) and *Ba<sup>2</sup>-lī-ša-pu-na* (Tiglath-Pileser III, 747–727) as proof.

Yet place names do not necessarily reflect current speech patterns. Because a place name may be much older than contemporary speech, it may reflect an older language phase.<sup>84</sup> And, the interpre-



tation of individual names often differs among scholars,<sup>85</sup> making the linguistic analysis of a name difficult.

Not all linguistic sources are equally reliable. For the purpose of Syro-Palestinian dialect geography, inscriptions offer the most secure linguistic material. They also represent the most complete collection of linguistic material preserved from this early period. Personal names can fill in needed gaps in the epigraphic data, as can the evidence from later sources. Later sources, of course, can provide only the basis for linguistic inferences in previous history. Finally, place names are used sparingly, only in the absence of more reliable evidence. For the present study, linguistic data must be collected from all available sources and used discriminately.

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What follows is a list of linguistic features which differentiate the first-millennium Northwest Semitic dialects. Texts within each dialect are grouped under their conventional dialect names: Phoenician, Aramaic, Samalian.<sup>86</sup> Ammonite, Deir Alla, Moabite, Edomite, and Hebrew. This procedure follows traditional classification of the texts<sup>87</sup> and facilitates an easy comparison of dialects. Wherever possible, dialectal subgroupings are isolated, as for example Byblian Phoenician when it differs from standard Phoenician, the speech form of most Phoenician-speaking communities. Frequently, the Old Aramaic texts differ from one another on particular linguistic features; in these cases, the dialectal differences within each dialect are fully treated. Dialect headings are used for convenient reference and are not prejudicial to the final classification scheme in Chapter 5.

The dialects are presented in a certain geographical order. Beginning on the western coast (Phoenicia), the route proceeds north (Aram; Sam'al), through Transjordan and back toward Palestine (Israel and Judah). Unless otherwise noted, Phoenician, Aramaic, Samalian, Moabite, and Hebrew texts are cited according to the readings of *KAI*. Wherever necessary, however, the readings of *KAI* have been corrected according to more recent studies. Well-known texts in those dialects not included in *KAI* are cited according to the *editio princeps* and any later studies.<sup>88</sup> Ammonite,<sup>89</sup> Deir Alla,<sup>90</sup>



and Edomite<sup>91</sup> texts are also cited according to the *editio princeps*. Bibliographic citations are provided for less well-known texts.

### Notes to Chapter I

1. Leonard Bloomfield, *Language* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1933), p. 343; André Martinet, "Diffusion of Language and Structural Linguistics," *Romance Philology* 6 (1952): 5; and Joseph H. Greenberg, *Essays in Linguistics* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1957), p. 54.

2. On the problem of dating the fall of Jerusalem, see David N. Freedman, "The Babylonian Chronicle," *BA* 19 (1956): 55 n. 20; and B. Oded, "Judah and the Exile," in *Israelite and Judaeon History*, ed. John H. Hayes and J. Maxwell Miller (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1977), pp. 474–475.

3. Although a comprehensive history of Syria-Palestine during the first millennium B.C.E. remains to be written, the history of several individual states has appeared. For Aram, see André Dupont-Sommer, *Les araméens, L'orient ancien illustré*, vol. 2 (Paris: A. Maisonneuve, 1949), and Abraham Malamat, "The Aramaeans," in *Peoples of Old Testament Times*, ed. D. J. Wiseman (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1973), pp. 134–155. For Sam'al, see Benno Landsberger, *Sam'al. Studien zur Entdeckung der Ruinenstaette Karatepe*, Veröffentlichungen der türkischen historischen Gesellschaft, Series 7, no. 16 (Ankara: Türkische historische Gesellschaft, 1948). For Ammon, see George M. Landes, "Ammon, Ammonites," in *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, 4 vols. (Nashville/New York: Abingdon Press, 1962), 1:108–114, and B. Oded, "Ammon, Ammonites," in *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 16 vols. (Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House, 1971–1972), 2:853–859. For Edom, see Manfred Weippert, "Edom. Studien und Materialien zur Geschichte der Edomiter auf Grund schriftlicher und archäologischer Quellen" (Inaugural-Dissertation, Eberhard-Karl-Universität, 1971). And for Israel, see the standard histories.

4. For the term, see Edward Sapir, "Dialect," in *Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*, ed. Edwin R. A. Seligman and Alvin Johnson, 15 vols. (New York: Macmillan Co., 1930–1935), 5:123–126. In this study, "speech form" and "dialect" (see recently I. M. Diakonoff, "Earliest Semites in Asia. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry According to Linguistic Data [VIIIth–IVth Millennia B.C.]," *AoF* 8 [1981]: 24 n. 1) are interchangeable.

5. William F. Albright, "The Northwest-Semitic Tongues before 1000 B.C.," in *Atti del XIX congresso internazionale degli orientalisti . . . 1935* (Rome: Tipografia del Senato, G. Bardi, 1938), p. 448. Cf. idem, "Recent Progress in North-Canaanite Research," *BASOR* 70 (1938): 21.

6. Albright used "North-Canaanite" as a synonym for Ugaritic already in his first two publications on Ugaritic. See "New Light on Early Canaanite Language and Literature," *BASOR* 46 (1932): 17, 19, and "The North-Canaanite Epic of 'Al'ēyān Ba'al and Môt," *JPOS* 12 (1932): 185.

7. Zellig S. Harris, *A Grammar of the Phoenician Language*, American Oriental Series, vol. 8 (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1936), p. 7 with n. 31.

8. Stanislav Segert, *A Grammar of Phoenician and Punic* (Munich: C. H. Beck, 1976), §§12.36, 12.38.

9. For example, J. Hoftijzer, "Interpretation and Grammar," in *Aramaic Texts from Deir 'Alla*, ed. J. Hoftijzer and G. van der Kooij, *Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui*, vol. 19 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1976), p. 300; and Joseph A. Fitzmyer, "[Review of Hoftijzer and van der Kooij, eds., *Aramaic Texts*]," *CBQ* 40 (1978): 94.

10. Jonas C. Greenfield, "[Review of Hoftijzer and van der Kooij, eds., *Aramaic Texts*]," *JSS* 25 (1980): 251.

11. Jo Ann Carlton (Hackett), "Studies in the Plaster Text from Tell Deir 'Allā" (Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1980), pp. 186–189; and idem, "The Dialect of the Plaster Text from Tell Deir 'Alla," *Or* 53 (1984): 64.

12. Alexander Rofé, *The Book of Balaam (Numbers 22:2–24:25)*, Jerusalem Biblical Studies, vol. 1 (Jerusalem: Simor, 1979), pp. 69–70 (in Hebrew).

13. Joseph Naveh, "[Review of Hoftijzer and van der Kooij, eds., *Aramaic Texts*]," *IEJ* 29 (1979): 136 (one alternative).

14. So, for example, Greenfield, "Dialect Traits in Early Aramaic," *Leshonenu* 32 (1968): 363, 361 (in Hebrew); idem, "The Dialects of Early Aramaic," *JNES* 37 (1978): 94; and Fitzmyer, "The Phases of the Aramaic Language," in idem, *A Wandering Aramean: Collected Aramaic Essays*, SBLMS, vol. 25 (Missoula: Scholars Press, 1979), p. 77 n. 30.

15. So, for example, Johannes Friedrich, *PPG*, p. 162; idem, "Zur Stellung des Jaudischen in der nordwestsemitischen Sprachgeschichte," in *Studies in Honor of Benno Landsberger . . . 1965*, Assyriological Studies, vol. 16 (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1965), p. 429; and Giovanni Garbini, "Studi aramaici—1–2," *AION* 19 (1969): 7.

16. Frank M. Cross, "Ammonite Ostraca from Heshbon: Heshbon Ostraca IV–VIII," *AUSS* 13 (1975): 17–18.

17. Garbini, *Le lingue semitiche. Studi di storia linguistica* (Naples: Istituto orientale di Napoli, 1972), p. 107 (one alternative).

18. Isidore Dyen, "[Review of Dahl, *Malgache et maanjan*]," *Lg.* 29 (1953): 580.

19. L. Gauchat, "Gibt es Mundartgrenzen?" *Archiv für das Studium der neueren Sprachen und Literaturen* 111 (1903): 378.

20. Harris, *Development of the Canaanite Dialects*, American Oriental Series, vol. 16 (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1939), p. 98 n. 8; and William G. Moulton, "Structural Dialectology," *Lg.* 44 (1968): 456.

21. Gotthelf Bergsträsser, "In Sachen meines 'Sprachatlas,'" *ZS* 1 (1922): 220–221; Hans Kurath, *Studies in Area Linguistics* (Bloomington/London: Indiana University Press, 1972), p. 75; and J. K. Chambers and Peter Trudgill, *Dialectology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,

1980), p. 24. Cf. Sabatino Moscati, *The Semites in Ancient History* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1959), p. 99; and Franz Rosenthal, "[Review of Friedrich, *PPG*]," *JAOS* 72 (1952): 172.

22. Dyen (private communication).

23. Cf. Harris, *Development*, p. 16.

24. Bloomfield, *Language*, p. 321.

25. *Ibid.*, p. 325.

26. Chambers and Trudgill, *Dialectology*, p. 24.

27. *Ibid.*, p. 112; and Lawrence M. Davis, "Dialectology and Linguistics," *Orbis* 26 (1977): 25.

28. Bloomfield, *Language*, p. 323.

29. See, for example, Harris, *Development*, p. 1.

30. See Charles F. Hockett, *A Course in Modern Linguistics* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1958), p. 481; and Raimo Anttila, *An Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics* (New York/London: Macmillan Publishing Co./Collier Macmillan Publishers, 1972), p. 294.

31. Pavle Ivić, "On the Structure of Dialectal Differentiation," *Word* 18 (1962): 43; and Anttila, *Introduction*, p. 298.

32. Albright never published his dialect maps of third-millennium Palestine, mentioned in "Notes on Early Hebrew and Aramaic Epigraphy," *JPOS* 6 (1926): 82 n. 15.

33. See also Sever Pop, *La dialectologie. Aperçu historique et Méthodes d'enquêtes linguistiques*, Université de Louvain, Recueil de travaux d'histoire et de philologie, 3<sup>e</sup> Série, Fascicules 38/39, 2 vols. (Louvain/Gembloux: [private]/J. Duculot, 1950), esp. 2:1091-1100.

34. Bergsträsser, "Sprachatlas von Syrien und Palästina," *ZDPV* 38 (1915): 169-222; cf. *idem*, *ZS* 1 (1922): 218-226.

35. See especially his methodological statement, *ZS* 1 (1922): 220-221.

36. *Ibid.*, p. 220.

37. Harris, *Development*.

38. Bergsträsser, *ZS* 1 (1922): 220.

39. Although Harris included the Zkr inscription in his study of Canaanite (see *Development*, p. 18), the language of this text is generally classified as Old Aramaic.

40. *Ibid.*, p. 98. Cf. H. L. Ginsberg, "[Review of Harris, *Development*]," *JBL* 59 (1940): 550.

41. Harris, *Development*, p. 98.

42. Chaim Rabin, "The Origin of the Subdivisions of Semitic," in *Hebrew and Semitic Studies Presented to Godfrey Rolles Driver*, ed. D. Winton Thomas and W. D. McHardy (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963), pp. 104-115.

43. *Ibid.*, p. 106.

44. For criticism of Rabin's method, see Joshua Blau, "Hebrew and North West Semitic: Reflections on the Classification of the Semitic Languages," *Hebrew Annual Review* 2 (1978): 22 n. 2.

45. Garbini, *Il semitico di nord-ovest*, Quaderni della sezione linguistica degli Annali, vol. 1 (Naples: Istituto universitario orientale di Napoli, 1960).

46. See also Haim Blanc, *Communal Dialects in Baghdad*, Harvard Middle Eastern Monographs, vol. 10 (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1964) for methodological similarities.
47. See n. 8 above.
48. Diakonoff, *Semito-Hamitic Languages. An Essay in Classification* (Moscow: Nauka Publishing House, 1965), pp. 11–12.
49. Garbini, *Le lingue*, pp. 15, 36.
50. *Ibid.*, p. 15.
51. For recent attempts at lexical analysis in Semitic, see Rabin, "Lexicostatistics and the Internal Divisions of Semitic," in *Hamito-Semitic*, ed. James and Theodora Bynon. *Janua Linguarum, Series Practica*, vol. 200 (The Hague/Paris: Mouton, 1975), pp. 85–99; Diakonoff, "Linguistic Data on the History of the Most Ancient Speakers of Afrasian Languages," *Africana* 10 (1975): 117–130 (in Russian); and Dyen, "Lexicostatistics: Present and Prospects," in *Lexicostatistics in Genetic Linguistics II: Proceedings of the Montreal Conference . . . 1973*, ed. Isidore Dyen and Guy Jucquois. *Cahiers de l'Institut de Linguistique de Louvain*, vol. 3, pt. 5–6 (Louvain: Imprimerie Orientaliste, 1976), pp. 20–21, 25.
52. Morris Swadesh, "Lexico-statistic Dating of Prehistoric Ethnic Contacts with Special Reference to North American Indians and Eskimos," *PAPhS* 96 (1952): 452–463; and idem, "Towards Greater Accuracy in Lexicostatistic Dating," *IJAL* 21 (1955): 121–137.
53. Moscati, *The Semites*, p. 76; and Masao Sekine, "The Subdivisions of the North-West Semitic Languages," *JSS* 18 (1973): 206. Cf. Albright, "Some Canaanite-Phoenician Sources of Hebrew Wisdom," in *Wisdom in Israel and in the Ancient Near East*, ed. M. Noth and D. Winton Thomas. *VTS*, vol. 3 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1955), p. 2. For the following discussion, see Yohanan Aharoni, *The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography*, trans. A. F. Rainey. 2nd ed. (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1979).
54. Harris, *Development*, p. 14; and Blau, "Some Difficulties in the Reconstruction of 'Proto-Hebrew' and 'Proto-Canaanite,'" in *In Memoriam Paul Kahle*, ed. Matthew Black and Georg Fohrer. *BZAW*, vol. 103 (Berlin: A. Töpelmann, 1968), p. 41.
55. Harris, *Development*, pp. 13–14.
56. Kurath, *Studies*, p. 95.
57. See the discussion in Chambers and Trudgill, *Dialectology*, pp. 15–23.
58. Kurath, *Handbook of the Linguistic Geography of New England*, 2nd ed. (New York: AMS Press, 1973), pp. 41, 49; idem, *Studies*, p. 12; and Chambers and Trudgill, *Dialectology*, pp. 33–35.
59. Kurath, *Handbook*, pp. 45, 48.
60. See *ibid.*, pp. 39, 49; idem, *Studies*, pp. 10–11; and Hockett, *Course*, p. 483.
61. Bloomfield, *Language*, p. 345; and Chambers and Trudgill, *Dialectology*, pp. 54–55. See also William Labov, *Sociolinguistic Patterns, Conduct and Communication*, no. 4 (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1972).

62. Chambers and Trudgill, *Dialectology*, pp. 55–59.
63. See also the study of Middle English cited in Hockett, *Course*, p. 473.
64. Bloomfield, *Language*, pp. 293, 294, 296; Ernst Pulgram, "The Nature and Use of Proto-Languages," *Lingua* 10 (1961): 24; and Anttila, *Introduction*, p. 43.
65. Cf. the recent study by Gary Rendsburg, "Evidence for a Spoken Hebrew in Biblical Times" (Ph.D. dissertation, New York University, 1980).
66. Theodora Bynon, *Historical Linguistics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), pp. 183, 214. See also Segert, "Aufgaben der biblisch-aramäischen Grammatik," *Communio Viatorum* 1/2–3 (1958): 130.
67. See, for example, B. S. J. Isserlin, "Epigraphically attested Judean Hebrew, and the question of 'upper class' (Official) and 'popular' speech variants in Judea during the 8th–6th centuries B.C.," *AJBA* 2/1 (1972): 197–203.
68. Bloomfield, *Language*, pp. 483, 484; Pulgram, "Spoken and Written Latin," *Lg.* 26 (1950): 459; and Bynon, *Historical Linguistics*, p. 193. See also Rosenthal, "[Review of Harris, *Development*]," *Or* 11 (1942): 181–182; and idem, *JAOS* 72 (1952): 172.
69. Naveh, "[Review of Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup>]," *JAOS* 93 (1973): 589; Cross, "Leaves from an Epigraphist's Notebook," *CBQ* 36 (1974): 486 n. 4; and Wolfgang Röllig, "Die Amulette von Arslan Taş," *NESE* 2 (1974): 28.
70. See, for example, Albrecht Goetze, "Cilicians," *JCS* 16 (1962): 53–54 n. 45.
71. Naveh, *IEJ* 29 (1979): 136; P. Kyle McCarter, "The Balaam Texts from Deir 'Allā: The First Combination," *BASOR* 239 (1980): 50; and Hackett, *Or* 53 (1984): 58.
72. Kurath, *Studies*, pp. 104–105, with modern examples on pp. 107–121.
73. Irene J. Winter, "On the Problems of Karatepe: The Reliefs and Their Context," *AS* 29 (1979): 136–140, esp. pp. 138–139.
74. Harris, *Development*, p. 17.
75. Cf. Kurath, *Studies*, pp. 1–2.
76. William W. Hallo and Hayim Tadmor, "A Lawsuit from Hazor," *IEJ* 27 (1977): 4–5.
77. Square brackets indicate the reconstructed pronunciation of words and phonemes.
78. Hans Bauer, "Die hebräischen Eigennamen als sprachliche Erkenntnisquelle," *ZAW* 48 (1930): 73–80.
79. Rabin, "Archaic Vocalisation in Some Biblical Hebrew Names," *JJS* 1 (1948): 22–26.
80. See, for example, Harris, *Development*, p. 23; and Alexander Sperber, *A Historical Grammar of Biblical Hebrew* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1966).
81. Harris, *Development*, p. 80.

82. I. J. Gelb, "The Early History of the West Semitic Peoples," *JCS* 15 (1961): 42.

83. Friedrich, "Kanaanäisch und Westsemitisch," *Scientia* 84 (1949): 222, 223 n. 1.

84. Bloomfield, *Language*, pp. 339–340; and Kurath, *Studies*, p. 59. See also Wolfram von Soden, "Zur Einteilung der semitischen Sprachen," *WZKM* 56 (1960): 180.

85. Compare, for example, Gelb (*JCS* 15 [1961]: 43–44), Chaim Brovender ("Hebrew Language. Pre-Biblical," in *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 16:1564), and Malamat ("Northern Canaan and the Mari Texts," in *Near Eastern Archaeology in the Twentieth Century*, ed. James A. Sanders [Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1970], p. 174 n. 14).

86. For the use of Samalian as a dialect name, see Greenfield, *Leshonenu* 32 (1968): 359 n. 6; and Helga and Manfred Weippert, "Die 'Bileam'-Inscription von Tell Dêr 'Allâ," *ZDPV* 98 (1982): 85 n. 31.

87. Edomite texts are recognized by find-spot, the appearance of *Qôs* personal names, and to a lesser extent by the script. On the latter, see Naveh, "The Scripts of Two Ostraca from Elath," *BASOR* 183 (1966): 27–30.

88. PHOENICIAN: For the second Arslan Tash inscription, see André Caquot and R. du Mesnil du Buisson, "La seconde tablette ou 'petite amulette' d'Arslan-Tash," *Syria* 48 (1971): 396, 403, and 392 fig. 1, 393 fig. 2A; and Röllig, *NESE* 2 (1974): 29.

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90. Hoftijzer and van der Kooij, eds., *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 173-178, 267, and plates 1-15, 19b, 20-23. See also Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 40-41. The lineation and reconstruction of Combination I follow André Caquot and André Lemaire, "Les textes araméens de Deir 'Alla," *Syria* 54 (1977): 193-194.

91. Complete references are given when individual texts are cited.





# PHONOLOGY

## 1. The correspondences of \*ḏ.

PHOENICIAN: ʕ, as in ארץ "land, country" (Karatepe A 14.9.18, etc.) and יצא "to go out" (Arsl.T. 1:26, 2:3). Although there is no evidence for the correspondence of \*ḏ in Old Byblian, the appearance of ארץ in Yehawmilk 10 suggests that ʕ represented \*ḏ in Byblian as well. Since \*ḏ had merged with \*ṣ in Ugaritic,<sup>1</sup> the phoneme \*ḏ was lost throughout the Canaanite dialects at a very early date.

ARAMAIC: ק, as in ארץ(א) "(the) land, country" (Zkr B 26; Br-Rkb 1:4, 2:2; Sf. I A 26.28; Fekh. 2; etc.), רקא "to appease" (Sf. III 6, etc.), מרק "sickness" (Fekh. 9), and קרק "to flee" (Sf. III 4.19.19/20).<sup>2</sup> Kutscher<sup>3</sup> also cited the personal name *Ra-qi-a-nu*<sup>4</sup> and its variant *Ra-ḥi-a-nu* (ANET<sup>3</sup>, p. 283).<sup>5</sup> The exact phonetic value of Old Aramaic ק < \*ḏ is not known.<sup>6</sup>

The only exception to this systematic correspondence is חצר "green grass" (Sf. I A 28).<sup>7</sup>

SAMALIAN: ק, as in ארץ "land, country" (H 5; P 5, etc.), מוקא "rising (sun)" (P 13.14), and רקא "to delight in" (H 18.22).

The only exception to the systematic correspondence of \**d*:*q* is צרי "my enemies" (H 30), cognate to Arabic [ḍarra] "to harm, injure."<sup>8</sup> The other word adduced as an exception to this correspondence, שמר, "to fall sick" (P 16), from the root \**mrḍ*,<sup>9</sup> is doubtful for two reasons: (1) the causative in Samalian is -ה not -ש. The morpheme itself, or the entire word, would have been borrowed; and (2) there is no parallel to the alleged correspondence \**d*:*g* in either Samalian or Aramaic. The parallel cited by Dion,<sup>10</sup> following Kutscher<sup>11</sup>—Syriac גחך "to laugh"—does not prove the point, since גחך, like other Semitic verbs of laughing,<sup>12</sup> is onomatopoeic.

AMMONITE: צ, as in צאן "sheep" (Hesh. Ost. 4:2.7.10).<sup>13</sup>

DEIR ALLA: ק, as in קרק "to flee" (I 15).<sup>14</sup> Whatever the pronunciation of the Deir Alla ק was,<sup>15</sup> the representation of \**d* by ק strongly aligns the Deir Alla dialect with Old Aramaic and Samalian.

MOABITE: צ, as in ארץ "land, country" (Mesha 5/6, etc.) and צאן "sheep" (Mesha 31).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

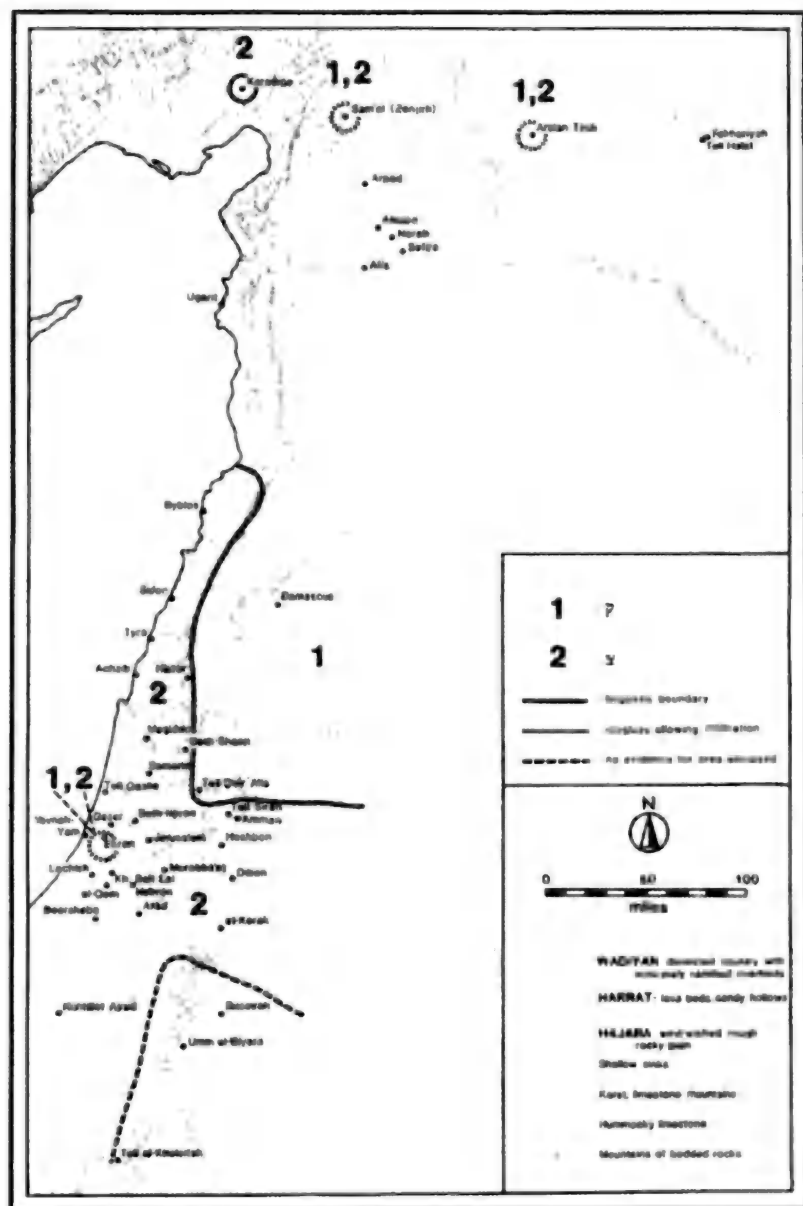
HEBREW: צ, as in רחץ "washing" (Sam. Ost. 19:3, 54:2/3, etc.), מוצא "spring" (Shiloah 5), and חמץ "vinegar" (Arad 2:7).

The Northwest Semitic dialects spoken between 1000 and 586 B.C.E. exhibit two graphic correspondences of \**d*. In Phoenician, Ammonite, Moabite, and Hebrew, \**d* is represented by צ. Old Aramaic, Samalian, and the Deir Alla dialect use a different grapheme, ק, to represent \**d*. This graphic representation suggests that \**d* had merged with a sibilant in Phoenician, Ammonite, Moabite, and Hebrew. In Old Aramaic, Samalian, and the Deir Alla dialect, \**d* had merged with a uvular. Further refinement of this twofold dialectal distinction along phonetic lines is not possible at present.

## 2. The correspondences of \**d*.

PHOENICIAN: 𐤆 [z], as for example the Byblian relative -𐤆 (Ahirom 1; Yehimilk 1, etc.) and the demonstrative pronoun 𐤆 "this" (Ahirom 2; Ahirom Graff. 3, etc.), and זבח "(to) sacrifice" (Karatepe A II 19, C IV 2.4, etc.). The original phoneme \**d* was lost in the earliest Phoenician texts and had merged with \**z*.<sup>16</sup>

ARAMAIC: 𐤎 [ḍ], as in אאז "to grasp, seize" (Br-Rkb I:11; Fekh. 19), חול "to fear" (Zkr A 13; Sf. II C 6), the relative 𐤎 (passim),



MAP 2: The correspondences of \*d.

etc.<sup>17</sup>  $\tau$  in the Old Aramaic texts was bivalent, corresponding to both  $*d$  and  $*z$ . The double pronunciation of Old Aramaic  $\tau$  is inferred from the representation of  $*d$  by both  $\tau$  and  $\tau$  in Imperial Aramaic texts.<sup>18</sup> The shift of  $*d > \tau$  could not have occurred had  $*d$  not remained an independent phone(me) in this early period.<sup>19</sup> There is also the possibility, however, that  $*d$  had merged with  $[z]/*z$  in Old Aramaic and that the Imperial Aramaic  $\tau < *d$  originated in another dialect strain.

SAMALIAN:  $\tau$ , as, for example, in  $\text{אחז}$  'to grasp, seize' (H 3, etc.; P 11),  $\text{זהב}$  'gold' (P 11), the relative particle ( $\tau$ )  $\text{זי}$  (H 1.3.4.22, etc.), etc.<sup>20</sup> The phonetic value of  $\tau < *d$  is uncertain; the phoneme  $*d$  may have been independent (as in Old Aramaic)<sup>21</sup> or may have merged with  $[z]$  (as in Phoenician dialects).<sup>22</sup> Also, the possibility of foreign influence on the phonetic realization of  $\tau < *d$  cannot be excluded.

AMMONITE:  $\tau$  [(?)], as in the PN  $\text{ירחעזר}$  (Amman Statue) and  $\text{אלעזר}$  (seal of  $\text{נרבאל}$ ).<sup>23</sup>

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.<sup>24</sup> The relative/genitive particle  $\tau$  (Clay Text 1)  $< *d$  is probably Aramaic.<sup>25</sup> The examples of  $*d$  cited by Hoftijzer,<sup>26</sup>  $\text{נזיט}$  (Vd 2) and  $\text{פחזי}$ <sup>27</sup> (II 8), are ambiguous since the etymology is uncertain in each case.<sup>28</sup>

MOABITE:  $\tau$  [(?)], as in  $\text{זאת}$  'this' (fem. sing.) (Mesha 3) and  $\text{אחז}$  'to capture' (Mesha 11.14, etc.). The phonetic value of  $\tau < *d$  is unknown. Cf. Samalian above.

EDOMITE:  $\tau$  [(?)], in the PN  $\text{בעזראל}$ .<sup>29</sup> The phonetic value of Edomite  $\tau$  is uncertain.<sup>30</sup>

HEBREW:  $\tau$   $[z]$ , as in the PN  $\text{אחז}$  (Sam. Ost. 2:5),  $\text{זהב}$  'gold' (Silwan B 1),  $\text{זה}$  'this' (masc. sing.) (Lach. 6:2; Yavneh-Yam 1:9; Arad 13:2), etc.

According to the available evidence, the correspondences of  $*d$  divide the NWS dialects into two parts. Old Aramaic, in all probability, preserved an independent phoneme,  $*d$ . In Phoenician and Hebrew,  $*d$  was lost and had merged with  $*z$ . In each of the remaining dialects, it is unknown whether  $*d$  was independent or had been lost to another phoneme.

Although Phoenician and Hebrew jointly lost  $*d$  to  $*z$ , the merger may have occurred independently in each dialect.<sup>31</sup> Since  $*d > [z]$  also occurred in Akkadian and Ethiopic, the loss of  $*d$  in Phoenician and Hebrew may not be an exclusively shared innovation

but parallel, independent developments. Alternatively,  $*d > [z]$  in NWS may have arisen by mutual contact and linguistic diffusion. The geographical proximity of the NWS dialects exhibiting the merger argues for the second alternative.<sup>32</sup>

### 3. The correspondences of $*t$ .

PHOENICIAN: צ [ʃ], as in חצר "courtyard" (Arsl.T. 1:7).

One possible exception to this correspondence is the place name צר "Tyre" <  $*tor$ , transcribed in Greek as Τυρος. While some scholars<sup>33</sup> have claimed that the representation of  $*t$  by T indicates that  $*t$  was still an independent phoneme in Phoenician, the evidence is dubious. Either the representation of  $*t$  by T reflects a sole remnant of [ʃ] in an old place name, or T results from foreign influence on the transmission of the place name.<sup>34</sup> In either case, there is no other evidence that  $*t$  persisted as an independent phoneme in Phoenician.

ARAMAIC: צ [ʃ], as in רץ "to run" (Br-Rkb 1:8) and נצר "to protect" (Sf. I B 8, C 15.17; Nerab 1:12.13; Adon 8).<sup>35</sup> In the later Imperial Aramaic texts, ט becomes the standard representation of  $*t$ .<sup>36</sup> Thus, as in the case of  $*d$ , the later phases of the Aramaic dialects indicate that the old phoneme had not been lost.

SAMALIAN: צ\* [(?)]. The only possible evidence of  $*t$  is the PN ברצר (P 1.3.20.20), if it is composed of בר "son" +  $*tr$  "rock."<sup>37</sup> Although no certain examples of  $*t$  occur in the Samalian texts, the phoneme would be represented by צ, as in both Aramaic and Phoenician dialects; its phonetic value, however, remains unknown.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: צ [(?)], as in עצה "advice" (II 9) and יעץ "to advise" (II 9). Hoftijzer<sup>38</sup> claimed that  $*t$  was still an independent phoneme on the basis of the orthographic variation in representing this phoneme. He cited עטם (I 7) cognate to Arabic [ʔazuma] "to be vast, powerful"<sup>39</sup> and עצם (VIIc 3), from the same root. Yet the new readings of the Balaam text show עלם in I 7, not עטם.<sup>40</sup> There is, then, no orthographic variation in the representation of  $*t$ .  $*t$  always corresponds to צ. Its phonetic value is unknown.

MOABITE: צ [(?)], as in צהרם "noon" (Mesha 15). In the absence of both transcriptions of Moabite and knowledge of later phonetic developments in this dialect, it is impossible to suggest the phonetic value of Moabite צ <  $*t$ .

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW:  $\text{צ}$  [s], as in  $\text{צק}$  "summer" (Gezer Cal. 7),  $\text{עצמות}$  "bones" (Silwan B 2), etc. Both biblical and epigraphic texts show that  $*\text{t}$  and  $*\text{s}$  have completely merged; there is no trace of an independent phoneme  $*\text{t}$ .

The resultant dialect map is similar to that of  $*\text{d}$ . In Phoenician and Hebrew,  $*\text{t}$  and  $*\text{s}$  have merged into  $\text{צ}$ ; the phoneme  $*\text{t}$  was lost. In Aramaic dialects, however, this phoneme was preserved. But by the fifth century,  $*\text{t}$  was becoming obsolete and had merged with  $\text{ט}$  [t].

Whether Samalian, Ammonite, Deir Alla, Moabite, and Edomite had an independent phoneme  $*\text{t}$ , as did Aramaic, or lost it, as did Phoenician and Hebrew, is unclear. The representation of this phoneme by  $\text{צ}$  in these dialects makes any judgment about the phonetic value impossible. Both the Canaanite and Aramaic dialects utilized  $\text{צ}$  to represent different sounds.

#### 4. The correspondences of $*\text{t}$ .

PHOENICIAN:  $\text{ש}$  [š], as in  $\text{משפט}$  "judgment" (Ahirom 2),  $\text{ישב}$  "to sit, dwell" (Karatepe A I 11, etc.; Kilamu 14), and  $\text{שמנה}$  "8" (Arsl. T. 1:17/18). The phoneme  $*\text{t}$  had already merged with [š] and had been lost by the time of the earliest Phoenician texts.<sup>41</sup>

Bauer and Leander,<sup>42</sup> however, objected that  $*\text{t}$  was preserved through late Phoenician times. They noted, in support, that Plutarch explicitly relates the Phoenician pronunciation of "ox"—Hebrew  $\text{שור}$ —as  $\theta\omega\rho$ , not as the expected  $*\sigma\omega\rho$ . Yet Friedrich<sup>43</sup> and Harris<sup>44</sup> suggested that Plutarch's  $\theta\omega\rho$  does not represent the actual Phoenician pronunciation of  $\text{שור}$ , but rather the Aramaic pronunciation [tôr]. Thus, there are no exceptions to the complete loss of  $*\text{t}$  in Phoenician dialects.

ARAMAIC:  $\text{ש}$  [t], in all Aramaic-speaking communities except that of Tell Fekheriyeh. Thus  $*\text{t}$  is represented as  $\text{ש}$  in Samal ( $\text{ישב}$  "to sit, dwell" [Br-Rkb 1:5 = Sf. III 7.17] and  $\text{שלשן}$  "30" [KAI 219:3]), Sfire ( $\text{שבר}$  "to break" [Sf. I A 38],  $\text{ש(ו)ב}$  "to return" [Sf. III 6, etc.], and  $\text{שאתן}$  "ewe(s)" [Sf. I A 21.23]), and Aleppo ( $\text{אשר}$  "place; trace" [Zkr B 15.16 (partially restored) = Sf. I A 5, etc.]). In the recently published Aramaic text from Tell Fekheriyeh, however,  $*\text{t}$  appears

as ס (e.g., עסר "riches" [l. 2], יסב "to sit, dwell" [ll. 5.16], חדס "(a)new" [l. 11], and סאן "ewes" [l. 20]).<sup>45</sup> As Kaufman has stated,<sup>46</sup> this ס does not represent a different phonetic correspondence of \**ṭ*, but only a different graphic representation. The use of ס rather than the standard ש in representing [ṭ] may result from the influence of Assyrian, where \**ṣ*: [s].

The persistence of an independent phoneme [ṭ] is suggested by the spelling of the PN עתרסמך (Sf. I A 1, etc.), pronounced [ʿAttar-] < \*ʿAttar-. Had \**ṭ* merged with [ṣ], as in Phoenician dialects, the name would have appeared as עשתרסמך\*;<sup>47</sup> cf. biblical Hebrew עשתרת and Akkadian *Ištar*. This particular form in Sfire could not have arisen had \**ṭ*/[ṭ] not been an independent phone(me).

For the supposed form ירת in Sf. I C 24, see Chapter 3, no. 16a.

SAMALIAN: ש [(?)], as in אשר "place" (H 27.27.32), ישב "to sit, dwell" (H 8.15, etc.), etc.<sup>48</sup> The graphic correspondence of \**ṭ*:ש, found in both Phoenician and Aramaic dialects, does not indicate any dialectal affinity.<sup>49</sup> Without transcriptions, Samalian ש is dialectally ambiguous.

AMMONITE: ש [(?)], as in דשא "grass" (Hesh. Ost. 4:9) and שתע "to fear" (Cit. 6).<sup>50</sup> The exact phonetic value of ש is unknown.

DEIR ALLA: ש [(?)], as in שמ(ה) "there, thither" (II 7.13.14), משפט "judgment" (II 17), etc.<sup>51</sup> It is unclear whether the phoneme \**ṭ* was lost, as in Phoenician dialects, or was retained, as in Old Aramaic dialects. Orthographically, Deir Alla ש < \**ṭ* could be interpreted in either way.

MOABITE: ש [(?)], as in שלשן "30" (Mesha 2), ירש "to occupy" (Mesha 7), and ישב "to sit, dwell" (Mesha 8.8/9, etc.). This grapheme is also phonetically ambiguous, as in Samalian, Ammonite, and the Deir Alla dialect.

EDOMITE: No evidence.<sup>52</sup>

HEBREW: ש [ṣ], as in שלש "3" (Shiloah 2), אשר "(relative particle)" (Silwan B 1.2; Lach. 2:6, etc.), and חדש "month" (Arad 7:3/4). By the time of the earliest Hebrew text, \**ṭ* had already been lost and had merged with \**ṣ*/[ṣ]. The Hebrew epigraphic texts offer no evidence bearing on Speiser's<sup>53</sup> claim that in one Hebrew dialect, \**ṭ* was realized as [s].

The merger of \**ṭ* and \**ṣ* did not occur simultaneously in Phoenician and Hebrew.<sup>54</sup> Rather, it occurred some four centuries earlier in Phoenician than in Hebrew. On the basis of this timetable, it is evident that the merging of \**ṭ* and [ṣ] began in Phoenician and then



spread into Palestine, finally reaching Hebrew centuries later. Phoenician was therefore the linguistic innovator from which Hebrew received the change.

The correspondences of \**ʔ* divide the first-millennium NWS dialects into two groups. Old Aramaic preserved an independent phoneme \**ʔ*, whereas \**ʔ* had merged with \**š* in Phoenician and Hebrew. It appears that the change \**ʔ* > [š] gradually diffused through Palestine.<sup>55</sup> The dialectal status of Samalian, Ammonite, Deir Alla, Moabite, and Edomite, in this respect, is unknown.

## 5. The correspondences of \**ā*.

PHOENICIAN: [ō], as inferred from the second-millennium transcriptions *Bi-(ʔa)-ru-ta* (VESO X C 4.5) and *ḥu-mi-tu* "wall" (EA 141:44).<sup>56</sup> The shift \**ā* > [ō] continued throughout the history of the Phoenician dialects, as the transcriptions *A-ḥu-ut-mi-il-ki* (ADD 894:5) < \**Aḥāt-* and Punic *dobrim* "saying" (Poén. 935) < \**dābirīm-* demonstrate.<sup>57</sup> Although evidence for the correspondence \**ā*: [ō] is based on transcriptions from different places and periods, the consistency with which \**ā* changed to [ō] indicates that this correspondence applied to *all* Phoenician dialects from the El-Amarna period on.<sup>58</sup>

ARAMAIC: \*[ā]. Although there is no direct evidence for the treatment of \**ā* in this period, the later Aramaic dialects (biblical Aramaic and Syriac especially) suggest that \**ā* remained stable in the early period.<sup>59</sup>

SAMALIAN: \*[ā], as in the place name *Sam-al*, *Sa-am-al-la*;<sup>60</sup> cf. Hebrew שמאל.<sup>61</sup> The Samalian texts themselves, however, offer no direct evidence that \**ā* corresponded to [ā].

AMMONITE: [ō (?)]. In all probability, Ammonite underwent the change of \**ā* > [ō], as seen in one Ammonite PN.<sup>62</sup> Since, in Phoenician, the change \**ā* > [ō] was patterned after the older shift \**ā* > [ō],<sup>63</sup> it can be inferred that, like Phoenician, Ammonite also modified \**ā* > [ō].<sup>64</sup> This vocalic change may also be evidenced in the place name ʔ(מ)ן [ʔammōn] and in the divine name "Milkom."

In Akkadian texts,<sup>65</sup> however, "Ammonites" appears as *Am-ma-na-aia*; the correspondence \**ā*: [ō] is absent. Yet this form of the gentilic probably does not reflect actual Ammonite pronunciation

but is rather an Akkadian form. The foreign name was adapted to Akkadian phonetic patterns;<sup>66</sup> in Akkadian \**ā* remained [ā].<sup>67</sup> Thus the evidence suggests that in Ammonite \**ā*:[ō].

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: [(?).] The evidence of Akkadian transcriptions is ambiguous since the Moabite PN *Ka-am-mu-su-na-ad-bi* (*ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 287), with apparent \**ā*:[ō], contrasts with the PNs *Ka-ma-as-ḥal-ta-a* (*ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 298) and *Sa-la-ma-nu* (*ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 282).<sup>68</sup> These names, then, cannot alone serve to posit the correspondence \**ā*:[ō] in Moabite.

Blau<sup>69</sup> used indirect evidence to find the correspondence of \**ā* in Moabite. According to him, the first person sing. perfect 𐤀 bears [i] on analogy to the independent pronoun [ʔanōkī]. The final [i] on [ʔanōkī], however, results from the following development: \**anāku* (as in Akkadian and Ugaritic) > \**anōkū* > (via dissimilation) [ʔanōkī]. Thus Blau hypothesized that [i] of the suffix 𐤀 indicates the existence of \**ā*:[ō] in Moabite.

Yet the verbal suffix [tī] does not appear only in dialects which exhibit the correspondence \**ā*:[ō]. In Amorite, for example, the first person sing. perfect ended in [ti],<sup>70</sup> but \**ā*:[ā]. The verbal suffix [tī] in Moabite, then, need not imply the correspondence \**ā*:[ō]. Thus it is preferable to revert to the traditional explanation of [i]; [i] in [tī] derives from an analogy with the first person sing. possessive suffix [i].<sup>71</sup> The suffix 𐤀, then, does not point to the existence of \**ā*:[ō] in Moabite.

EDOMITE: No evidence. Bauer,<sup>72</sup> however, suggested that \**ā*:[ō] in Edomite, on the basis of the personal name עבבר (Gen. 36:38.39) < \**-bār* and possibly the place name "Edom" itself.

HEBREW: [ō], already in the El-Amarna period (e.g., *aḥ-ru-un-nu* "last" [EA 245:10 (Megiddo)] and *sū-ki-ni* "agent" [EA 256:9])<sup>73</sup> and continuing throughout the biblical texts. There is, however, no direct evidence from the epigraphic texts which suggests that \**ā*:[ō].

The correspondence \**ā*:[ō] appears in Phoenician dialects, Ammonite, and in Hebrew. In Old Aramaic and probably Samalian, \**ā* was preserved as [ā]. The treatment of \**ā* in Moabite, Deir Alla, and in Edomite is unknown.

On the basis of geographical location—adjacent to Hebrew in the South—it is possible that Edomite followed the pattern of Phoe-

nician, Ammonite, and Hebrew and exhibited the correspondence \*á:[ô]. The situation in Moabite and Deir Alla is more difficult to infer because each dialect shares diagnostic traits with both Phoenician-Hebrew and with Aramaic dialects. Additional evidence is needed to decide this issue.

## 6. The correspondences of \*á.<sup>74</sup>

PHOENICIAN: [ô], whether \*á had contracted from \*a' (as Pun. *nasot* "I bore" [Poen. 947] < \**našátī* < \**našá'tī*)<sup>75</sup> or from the syncope of the semi-vowels y or w (as in the PNs *Bu-di-ba-al* [ANET<sup>3</sup>, p. 296] < \**bād* < \**ba/i-yad*<sup>76</sup> and *Hi-ru-um-mu* [ANET<sup>3</sup>, p. 283] < \**rām* < \**rawam*).<sup>77</sup> Although *nasot* is attested in the late phase of Phoenician, the form is probably old;<sup>78</sup> cf. similarly the Greek  $\rho\omega$  < \**rās* < \**rá's*. The correspondence \*á:[ô] presumably appeared in both Byblian and standard Phoenician, although the innovating dialect of the correspondence cannot be determined. That the correspondence is systematic, occurring without exception,<sup>79</sup> suggests that all Phoenician dialects participated in the shift \*á > [ô].

ARAMAIC: \*[â], as inferred from the later Aramaic dialects. Even in those Aramaic dialects which exhibit the correspondence \*á:[ô], \*á does not shift to [ô]. Old Aramaic, then, probably preserved \*á throughout.

SAMALIAN: \*[â (?)], as inferred from the preservation of \*á. Since the correspondence \*á:[ô] is based upon the prior change \*á:[ô],<sup>80</sup> the absence of \*á:[ô] in Samalian suggests the absence of \*á:[ô] as well.

AMMONITE: [ô], in the PN *Pu-du-il* [P<sup>3</sup>dō-<sup>2</sup>ēl] mentioned in the annals of Sennacherib and Essarhaddon.<sup>81</sup> If this name is composed of the elements פדוה "to ransom" (third person masc. sing. perfect) + the divine name "El," the transcription *Pu-du-il* indicates that, as in Phoenician dialects, the vowel \*á < \*aya shifted to [ô] (u in the transcription). The development of the name, then, is \**Padā-<sup>2</sup>il*<sup>82</sup> > \**Padō-<sup>2</sup>il* > [P<sup>3</sup>dō-<sup>2</sup>ēl].<sup>83</sup> Ammonite reflects the correspondence \*á:[ô], if \*á resulted from the syncope of an intervocalic semi-vowel. Whether \*á < \*a' also shifted to [ô], as in Phoenician, is unclear.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: [ô], if \*â was derived from the absorption of ʾ into the preceding \*a in a doubly closed syllable, as in BH שׂרָא ‘‘head’’ and שׂאֵן ‘‘sheep.’’<sup>84</sup> Otherwise, \*â < \*âʾ corresponded to [â], as in קָלַל *qal* perfects.<sup>85</sup> When \*â resulted from the contraction of \*aya and \*awa, however, \*â became [â], as in the third person masc. singular perfect of final weak verbs in BH. Yet there is no direct evidence for the correspondences of \*â in the epigraphic texts themselves; such correspondences can only be inferred from other, non-epigraphic sources.

On the basis of the available evidence, Aramaic dialects (and probably Samalian) preserved \*â as [â] in all cases. In Phoenician dialects, \*â shifted to [ô] consistently, whether \*â was derived from the contraction of \*âʾ > \*â or from the intervocalic syncopation of \*aya/\*awa > \*â. Ammonite followed the Phoenician pattern, for the shift \*â > [ô] is apparent when \*â resulted from the syncope of \*aya/\*awa > \*â. There is no evidence for the treatment of \*âʾ > \*â in Ammonite, although this \*â too probably shifted to [ô]. At present, then, it is impossible to determine the vowel in Ammonite שׂאֵן ‘‘sheep’’ (Hesh. Ost. 4:2.7.10).

Hebrew, at least as attested in the Masoretic text, lay midway between the two linguistic extremes represented by Aramaic (complete preservation of \*â:[â]) and Phoenician dialects (complete transformation of \*â to [ô]). When \*â resulted from the contraction of \*aʾ in a doubly closed syllable, \*â shifted to [ô]. When \*â resulted from the syncopation of an intervocalic y or w, \*â became [â]. The former case follows the Phoenician pattern; the latter follows the Aramaic pattern. The treatment of \*â in Hebrew thus varied depending upon the development and environment of \*â.

## 7. The correspondences of \*â.

PHOENICIAN: [ô], in nominal formations, as in the PNs *Ba-ʾa-al-ma-lu-ku* (ANET<sup>3</sup>, p. 296) < \*malâk < \*malâk, *la-a-tu-na* (Nabunaid 33.5) < \*yatân, and Pun. -λαβον ‘‘white’’ < \*labân.<sup>86</sup> In Phoenician dialects, \*â was stress-lengthened to \*â̄ and thence shifted to [ô]; cf. \*â:[ô] in Phoenician.<sup>87</sup>

In verbal forms, however, \*â was preserved as [â], as, for example, in the PNs *Mil-ki-a-ša-pa* (ANET<sup>3</sup>, p. 291 [Byblos])<sup>88</sup> and

*Ilu-ya-ta-a-nu* (ABL 1112:8). While these forms may indicate a general dialectal variant to the correspondence \*á:[ó],<sup>89</sup> another, more specific explanation is available. The evidence conforms to that of BH: tonic lengthening occurs in nouns (incl. PNs) but not in verbs.<sup>90</sup> Those forms in Phoenician with [ó] were treated as nouns, those with [á] were treated as verbs.

ARAMAIC: \*[á], as inferred from the later Aramaic dialects.<sup>91</sup>

SAMALIAN: \*[á (?)], although evidence is lacking.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: [\*ā], if the evidence of the place name "Moab," Akk. *Mula<sup>2</sup>a-b(a)* (*ANET*<sup>3</sup>, pp. 282, 287, etc.) is to be normalized [Mō'āb].<sup>92</sup> Whether \*á was stress-lengthened, as in Phoenician and Hebrew, is unknown.

EDOMITE: [ā], as in the PNs [Ba'al-hānān] (Gen. 36:38, etc.) and *Qauš-malaku* (*ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 282). The quantity of the vowel, however, is unknown.

HEBREW: As inferred from the Masoretic vocalization, \*á in nouns was stress-lengthened, whereas in verbs it remained [á].<sup>93</sup> Although there is no evidence for the quantity of this vowel in the epigraphic texts, the consistency with which BH treats nominal vs. verbal \*á suggests that the Masoretic rules were operative in the epigraphic texts as well.

The evidence of those NWS dialects that show the correspondence of \*á suggests an initial twofold division among the dialects. In Phoenician and Hebrew, \*á was stress-lengthened to [ā] in nominal forms only. In Aramaic, and probably also in Samalian, \*á was preserved as [á] under all circumstances, whereas in Phoenician and Hebrew it was preserved as [á] only in verbal forms. Thus Phoenician and Hebrew constitute a single dialect group, which exhibits stress-lengthening, as opposed to the other first-millennium NWS dialects which attest to the correspondence \*á:[á]. The dialectal status of Ammonite, the Deir Alla dialect, Moabite, and Edomite, in this respect, is unknown.

Within the Phoenician-Hebrew group, Phoenician shows a further phonological development. Whereas \*á in Hebrew nominal forms was only stress-lengthened to [ā], in Phoenician \*á was stress-lengthened to \*ā and was then treated as an originally long, accented \*ā, becoming [ó]. Hebrew distinguished \*ā from \*ā and \*á; the first always shifted to [ó], the second shifting only when \*ā resulted from

\*a' in a doubly closed syllable, and the third retaining its quality but lengthening to [á] in nouns but remaining [á] in verbs. In Phoenician, however, all three vowels became [ó], with the exception of verbal \*á:[á]. The phonological correspondence \*á:[ó] in Phoenician therefore extended to nearly all *a*-vowels under the accent.

The consistency with which Phoenician applied the correspondence \*á:[ó] suggests that the change began in this dialect. From this point, the change spread to different parts of Syria-Palestine. \*á:[ó] reached Ammonite and Hebrew; \*á:[ó] reached Ammonite, and nominal \*á:[á] reached only Hebrew. The further modification of \*á > \*á > [ó] never spread beyond Phoenicia itself. The source of these changes, then, was Phoenician.

## 8. The correspondences of \*aw and \*ay.

PHOENICIAN: [ó]/[é], as in, for example, עַלְךָ ['alékā] 'upon you' (Bronze Spat. 5), בַּת [bét] 'house, temple' (Yehimilk I, etc.), לַל [lél(ê/ā)] 'night' (Karatepe A II 17), יוֹם [yôm] 'day' (Yehimilk 5; Kilamu 12; Karatepe A I 5, etc.), and עֵן ['ên] 'eye' (Arsl.T. 2:2.4; cf. לִפְנֵי [li-êñê] 'before' [Yehawmilk 10]).<sup>94</sup> The contraction of both diphthongs had already occurred by the El-Amarna period, for both Ugaritic and the Amarna letters from Syria reflect these contractions.<sup>95</sup> In the first-millennium Phoenician dialects, diphthongs contracted in both medial and final positions, whether stressed or not.<sup>96</sup>

Cross and Freedman, however, found an exception to diphthong contraction in the third person masc. sing. perfect of final weak verbs in Old Byblian.<sup>97</sup> They vocalized עָלַי 'he attacks' (Ahirom 2), בָּנַי 'he built' (Yehimilk I; Shiptibaal 1), and חָרַי 'he restored' (Yehimilk 2) as [ʿalay], [banay], and [ḥawway], respectively. Yet internal and comparative evidence suggest the vocalization [ʿalaya], [banaya], and [ḥawwa/iya].<sup>98</sup> Thus \*aw and \*ay contracted without exception throughout the Phoenician dialects.

ARAMAIC: [aw]/[ay], as in יוֹם [yawm] 'day' (Sf. I A 12, etc.; Nerab 2:3.4; Fekh. 7), אוֹר [ʾaw] 'or' (Sf. I B 27, etc.; Zkr B 21), בַּיִת [bayt] 'house, dynasty' (Zkr B 9.12; Hama 7 A 923 + 7 A 538 [partially restored]; Br-Rkb 2:3.4; Fekh. 8, etc.), and שָׁמַיִן [šamayn] 'heaven' (Zkr B 25; Sf. I A 11, etc.; Fekh. 2). In general, \*aw and \*ay were retained in both medial and final positions.<sup>99</sup>

The only<sup>100</sup> real exception to the preservation of these diphthongs lay in the morphological distinction between certain 'long' and 'short' imperfects of final weak verbs.<sup>101</sup> In the 'short' im-

perfect—i.e., in those forms derived from *\*yaqtul*—the final diphthong was preserved; it was marked by י. In the “long” imperfect, this diphthong contracted and was represented by ה-.<sup>102</sup>

The oft-cited<sup>103</sup> form בניהם [bênayhum] “between them” in Sf. III 18.18.19 remains unexplained. If the original form was *\*bayn*, as all comparative evidence indicates,<sup>104</sup> the absence of י is notable.<sup>105</sup> So too בת “house” in Fekh. 17.<sup>106</sup>

SAMALIAN: [aw]/[ay] when in medial position, and [ô]/[aw] and [ê] in final position. [aw] in medial position occurs in, for example, הושב(ת) [hawʃib(t|u/i)] “I/he settled” (H 19; P 19) and מורד [maw-dad] “friend” (H 24.27);<sup>107</sup> medial [ay] occurs in בית [bayt] “house, dynasty” (H 9; P 2, etc.), עין [‘ayn] “eye” (H 30.32), and היטבה [hayṭibih (?)] “he made it better” (P 9). Final [ê] may appear in לילא [laylē] “night” (H 24) < *\*laylay*.<sup>108</sup> Original final *\*aw* is represented by י, as in או “or” (H 16.25, etc.); it is unclear, however, whether the original diphthong contracted, like final *\*ay*, or was preserved, like medial *\*aw*. The orthography itself is ambiguous in this case.

In every instance that an original diphthong is expected, it is orthographically represented, except in two cases. The form ימי “my days” occurs in P 10.18, while in H 9 ימי “my days” appears. Similarly, the expected אחיה “his brothers” appears in H 27.28, while in H 30 and P 17 אחיה “his brothers” is found. In the case of ימי:ימי, scholars<sup>109</sup> generally noted that the marking and nonmarking of the original diphthong signifies that the diphthong had either contracted or was in the process of contracting. It is also possible, however, that Samalian had two, competing, plural forms of יום\* “day.”<sup>110</sup> The first, represented by ימי, is the extended plural of a NWS monosyllabic singular noun. It is characteristic of the NWS dialects that *\*qVtl-* singular nouns form their plural as *\*qatal-*.<sup>111</sup> Thus Samalian [yawm] “day” had *\*yawam-* as its plural, from which intervocalic *waw* was lost,<sup>112</sup> producing *\*yaam* > *\*yâm-*. The masc. plural morpheme [û] was added to *\*yâm*, resulting in [yâmû] for the nominative plural corresponding to ימי; cf. BH ימים. The other plural form, יומי, developed differently. The singular noun, יום\*, was used as the base of the plural, to which was added the masc. plural morpheme. The result is [yawm]-singular → [yawmû]-plural, the nominative corresponding to יומי. This second plural formation resembles Old Aramaic יומן “days” (Sf. II C 17; Fekh. 7). For similarly competing forms, cf. biblical Aramaic ראשין “heads” (Dan. 7:6) < *\*riʃs* and ראשיהם “their heads” (Ezr. 5:10) < *\*raʔaš-*.

In the case of *איחיה* and *איחה*, the difference in the orthography may reflect a grammatical difference in the two nouns. In Samalian, the nominative masc. pl. morpheme was [ū], and the oblique [ī].<sup>113</sup> *איחיה*, with the ending [ī], is in the oblique case, whether genitive (H 27) or accusative (H 28). *איחה*, however, is nominative, as is obvious from the words in apposition to it, זכרו "males" (H 31) and מלכו "kings" (P 17). The orthographic difference between *איחיה* and *איחה* therefore reflects a difference in morphology.<sup>114</sup> *איחיה* and *איחה* are different forms and are not different spellings of the same word. Therefore neither *אימי* nor *איחה* exemplifies incipient diphthong contraction in Samalian.

AMMONITE: [aw]/[ê], as in יומת [yawmōt] "days" (Sir. 7) and מות [mawt] "death" (seal of ענמות).<sup>115</sup> \*ay, however, contracted in both medial (e.g., ין [yēn] "wine" [Hesh. Ost. 4:7.8]) and final positions (e.g., בן [banê/ī]<sup>116</sup> "the sons of" [Sir. 1.2, etc.]). The different treatment of \*aw and \*ay is paralleled in Attic Greek where, according to Sturtevant,<sup>117</sup> final \*au was preserved and \*ai contracted to [ē].

DEIR ALLA: [aw]/[ay], in both medial and final positions.<sup>118</sup> [aw] occurs, for example, in מועד [maw'id] "counsel" (I 6), מות [mawt] "death" (II 13.14), and או [aw] "or" (II 9); [ay] appears in בית [bayt] "house, dynasty" (II 6, etc.), לילה [laylā] "night" (I 1), בני [banay] "the sons of" (II 8), etc.<sup>119</sup> Since internal *matres lectionis* do not appear in these texts,<sup>120</sup> the semi-vowels י and ו mark uncontracted diphthongs.

The only exception to the preservation of these diphthongs in Deir Alla, as in Old Aramaic, lies in the distinction between "long" and "short" imperfect forms of the third person masc. sing. final weak *qal* verbs.<sup>121</sup> The diphthong was preserved in the "short" imperfect, י- [ay], but the diphthong contracted to [ê] (ה-) in the "long" imperfect.<sup>122</sup>

MOABITE: [aw] > [au] > [ô]/[ay] > [aī] > [ê]. The evidence of the Mesha stone suggests that these diphthongs were in a state of flux.<sup>123</sup> Uncontracted diphthongs are found in one gentilic (הדיבני [had-Daybōnī] "the Dibanite" [Mesha 1/2]) and one place name (חורן [Hawrōnān (?)] [Mesha 31.32]). Diphthong contraction, however, was the general rule in Moabite, as, for example, in השעני [hōšf'annī] "he saved me" (Mesha 4), ואשב [wā-ōšib] "and I settled" (Mesha 13), לילה [lêlā] "night" (Mesha 15), מאתן [ma'tēn] "200" (Mesha 20), and לפני [li-panē] "before" (Mesha 13.18).<sup>124</sup> Whereas,



then, original diphthongs were pronounced in place names, the spoken language had diphthong contraction.

The link between these phonetic extremes is represented by a pair of words in which one lacks a marker of the original diphthong while the other marks the original diphthong. In *בַּת* "house, dynasty" (Mesha 7.23) and *בֵּית* (Mesha 25), the first form points to diphthong contraction: the *yodh* of the second form, however, suggests the presence of the diphthong \**ay*. Whereas, then, Moabite place names have uncontracted diphthongs and the rest of the language shows general diphthong contraction, the doublet *בַּת:בֵּית* suggests that contraction was not complete by the late ninth century. Although the Mesha inscription reflects a dialect in which diphthongs had, for the most part, contracted, vestigial uncontracted forms do appear.

EDOMITE: [aw] > [ô]/[?]. Evidence for the diphthong \**aw* is found only in the divine name *קֹדֶשׁ*,<sup>125</sup> which is vocalized as [Qaus]/[Qauš] in Akkadian<sup>126</sup> and as *Q3ws* in Egyptian.<sup>127</sup> Both vocalizations indicate that, at least through the seventh century, the diphthong in the divine name did not contract. By the Persian period, however, the diphthong had contracted, as in the PNs *Qusuyada* (Darius) and *Qusuyahab* (Artaxerxes I).<sup>128</sup> The diphthong, then, contracted within two centuries.

At present, there is no evidence for the correspondence(s) of \**ay* in Edomite.

NORTHERN HEBREW (North of Jerusalem): [ô]/[ê], as in *קָץ* [qêš] "summer" (Gezer Cal. 7), *יָ* [yên] "wine" (Sam. Ost. passim), and *חֶרֶן* [Hôrân (?)] "Horan" (Tell Qasile 2). Northern Hebrew thus followed the pattern of diphthong contraction already evident in Ugaritic and in the Amarna letters from north Palestine.<sup>129</sup>

The only exception to diphthong contraction in northern Hebrew is the form *בֵּית* in Tell Qasile 2 and the Beth-Shean ostrakon.<sup>130</sup> The *yodh* would seem to indicate the presence of a diphthong, contrary to the general phonological trend in northern Hebrew. This exception may be explained in several ways, however. The *yodh* may be a *mater lectionis* for [ê]; there are, however, no parallels to this usage. The form may have been borrowed, or may have spread, from a dialect that did not contract diphthongs, as, for example, southern Hebrew.<sup>131</sup> Finally, since *בֵּית* is part of a place name in both instances, the form may not reflect current speech patterns but those of an earlier, nonmonophthongizing dialect.<sup>132</sup> Whatever the

explanation, the form בית does not conform to the pattern of diphthong contraction in northern Hebrew.<sup>133</sup>

SOUTHERN HEBREW (Jerusalem and the South): [aw]/[ay], as in ערד ['awd] "still" (Shiloah 1.2; Arad 1:5, 2:7), מרצא [mawṣāʔ] "spring" (Shiloah 5), יין [yayn] "wine" (Arad 1:3.9, etc.; Lach. 25), and בית [bayt] "house, dynasty" (Beer-Sheba Ost. 1:4;<sup>134</sup> Silwan B 1; Mur 17 A 1). These diphthongs were uncontracted in both medial, and presumably final, positions.<sup>135</sup> With respect to final diphthongs, however, the orthographic pattern in these texts is of no help since final long vowels are marked; whether contracted or not, a semi-vowel would appear in the orthography. Thus the consistent appearance of medial diphthongs suggests the presence of final diphthongs.

Two forms,<sup>136</sup> however, may reflect diphthong contraction in the southern Hebrew dialect. The first is the place name תלר [Tôlād] < \*Tawlad.<sup>137</sup> This spelling is surprising, since the place itself was located in south Judah. But it is likely that the reading תלר is erroneous.<sup>138</sup> In this case there is no contracted diphthong.

The other possible instance of diphthong contraction is reflected in the form of the word "day." While the form ים appears throughout the southern Hebrew texts,<sup>139</sup> it is striking that יום\*, comparable to [yawm] in Old Aramaic and Ammonite, never appears.<sup>140</sup> There are two explanations: (1) as in all Semitic languages,<sup>141</sup> BH had two forms of "day," \*yawm > יום [yôm] and \*yam > ימים [yāmim]/ימי [yômê]. The appearance of ים "day" in the southern Hebrew epigraphic texts, then, would suggest that, at one time, Hebrew had a form \*yam > [yām]<sup>142</sup> in the singular as well.<sup>143</sup> (2) ים was indeed pronounced [yôm], as in BH [yôm] < \*yawm. This form had to be borrowed from a diphthong-contracting dialect, probably from northern Hebrew. In either case, the form ים in southern Hebrew does not violate the rule that, in this dialect, all diphthongs were pronounced.<sup>144</sup>

The first-millennium NWS dialects reflect various degrees of diphthong contraction and noncontraction. At one extreme, Phoenician dialects and northern Hebrew contracted the diphthongs \*aw and \*ay in both medial and final positions. At the other extreme, Old Aramaic, the Deir Alla dialect, and southern Hebrew preserved these diphthongs in both positions. In Old Aramaic and the Deir Alla dialect, however, the diphthong contracted in the "long" imperfect

of some final weak forms. The treatment of *\*ay* and *\*aw* in Samalian resembles that of Old Aramaic and Deir Alla, except that *\*ay* in final position contracted to [ê]; this contraction is perhaps attributable to the influence of Phoenician in Samal at this time.

Those dialects which lay on the periphery of Aramaic- and Canaanite-speaking peoples show greater variation in the treatment of original diphthongs. In Ammonite, [aw] was preserved in medial (and final?) position, whereas *\*ay* contracted to [ê] in both. In Edomite, the only evidence for original diphthongs suggests that *\*aw*, preserved as late as the eighth-seventh centuries, contracted to [ô] by the fifth century B.C.E. Finally, *\*aw* and *\*ay* in Moabite were in the process of contracting; place names preserved the original diphthongs, while the spoken language reflects a distinct tendency to contract diphthongs.

Two models can account for this distribution. Monophthongization may have originated in Phoenicia, and thence spread to northern Israel, later to Ammon, Moab, and finally reached Edom centuries later. Alternatively, monophthongization developed independently in several dialects as it did, for example, in Akkadian. As a result, it is unclear whether monophthongization is a shared innovation in NWS. The distribution of the phenomenon, however, suggests a Phoenician origin.<sup>145</sup>

## 9. The treatment of *\*n* + consonant.

BYBLIAN: Within the word, *nun* always assimilated to the following consonant, as for example in ארת 'lady' (Elibaal 2; Shiptibaal 4) < *\*adōnt*<sup>146</sup> and מג/פשת 'offerings, possessions' (Bronze Spat. 4.5) < *\*ngś* or *\*npś*. The only exception to this rule is that *nun* did not assimilate to a following laryngeal,<sup>147</sup> as for example תנחל 'you will inherit' (Bronze Spat. 4).

*Nun* assimilated to the following consonant even between words, as for example ביהמלך 'son of Yehimilk' (Shiptibaal 3; Elibaal 1 [partially restored]) < *\*bin* + Yehimilk and בכלבי 'son of Kalbay' ('Abdo) < *\*bin* + Kalbay. This particular assimilation was restricted to בן + PN, when the two words were pronounced in sandhi and when the initial letter of the second letter was not a laryngeal; cf. בן אחרם 'son of Ahirom' (Ahirom 1) and בן אלבעל 'son of Elibaal' (Shiptibaal 2). The assimilation of *\*bin* to the following



word did not continue into later Byblian, for by the fifth century the form בן יחרבעל appears (Yehawmilk 1).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: *Nun* assimilated to the following consonant only within a word, as for example יסע [yissá<sup>ε</sup>] "he rips out" (Karatepe A III 15.17) < \*yinsa<sup>ε</sup>, יק [yázziq] "he damages" (Kilamu 14) < \*yânziq, and possibly<sup>148</sup> כת [kattī] "I was" (Kilamu 6.10.10.11).

ARAMAIC: *Nun* always assimilated to the following consonant within a word, as for example אפן [ʔappayn] "face" (Sf. I A 28.42, III 2) < \*ʔanp-, ואשא [wā-ʔáśšaʔ] "and I raised" (Zkr A 11; see also Sf. I B 39, etc.) < \*ʔanśaʔ, and יסחו [yassʔhū] "may they remove" (Nerab 1:9) < \*yansʔhū.<sup>149</sup> The preposition בן "from" did not assimilate to the following consonant (e.g., Zkr A 10.10, etc.; Sf. I A 30, B 8, etc.).<sup>150</sup>

Although several exceptions have been adduced to the rule, they are not convincing. For example, Fitzmyer<sup>151</sup> tentatively saw an unassimilated *nun* in תנתע (Sf. I B 29). Yet the division of words in this line is very difficult, and the proposed etymology of תנתע < \*ntḏ violates the regular Aramaic correspondence of \*ḏ:ק as well.<sup>152</sup> Similarly, the forms תנצר "you protect" and ינצר "it will be protected" in Nerab 1:12.13<sup>153</sup> may either be *peal* or *paal* conjugations. If *peal*, יתנצר would be the only instance where *nun* failed to assimilate to the following consonant; cf. יסחו "may they remove" (Nerab 1:9). Yet it is also possible that the forms are *paal*, in which case the preservation of the *nun* could be explained by a vowel between the *nun* and ṣade ([yʔnaṭṭer (?)]. Thus, there is no clear evidence for an exception to the rule of the assimilation of *nun* to the following consonant in Old Aramaic.

SAMALIAN: Within a word, *nun* always assimilated to the following consonant, as for example יתנו "they will give" (H 4) < \*ntn, את [ʔatt(a)] "you" (H 33) < \*ʔantā, חטה [ḥittā] "wheat" (H 6; P 6.9) < \*ḥintā, and possibly מת [mit(t)] "indeed" (H 12.13, etc.) < \*mint.<sup>154</sup> The *nun* of בן "from" never assimilated to the initial consonant of the following word (P 2.4.7, etc.).<sup>155</sup> The nonassimilation in this case may be attributable to the word divider separating the preposition from the word. Assimilation of *nun*, then, was only word-internal; cf. Byblian.

The only possible exception to this rule is the form of the infinitive לנצב "to erect" (H 10). This example is ambiguous, however,

since the form may be a *paēl*,<sup>156</sup> or a *peal* infinitive with a vowel between the first and second radicals.<sup>157</sup>

AMMONITE: Although the evidence is scarce, it appears that *nun* assimilated to the following consonant within a word (as in the PN הצלאל [Sir. 2] < \**nʕl*). The *nun* of מן "from" did assimilate to a following consonant, even if that consonant were a laryngeal (as in מאלת "from Elath" [Hesh. Ost. 4:4]).<sup>158</sup>

DEIR ALLA: *Nun* assimilated to the following consonant within a word, as in תטפן "they drip (?)" (II 35.36) < \**nʔp*.<sup>159</sup> The *nun* of מן "from," however, did not assimilate (I 3.13; II 8.8.8).<sup>160</sup>

MOABITE: *Nun* assimilated to the following consonant within a word, as for example שַׁת [šat(t)] "year" (Mesha 2.8) < \**šant* and ואשא [wā-ʾaššaʾ] "and I raised" (Mesha 20.30) < \**nʕʕ*. The *nun* of מן "from" assimilated to a following laryngeal, as in מעלם "always" (Mesha 10) < \**min* + \**ʕālām*.<sup>161</sup> The existence of the form בן. כמש[ית] "son of Kemosh-yat" (Mesha 1) demonstrates that, unlike Old Byblian, *nun* did not assimilate between words.

EDOMITE: No certain evidence. An example of the preposition מן\* may appear in the Umm el-Biyara Ostrakon, I. 2 מערד "from 'Adr.'" <sup>162</sup> The preposition מן\*, then, would have assimilated to the following word, even if that word began with a laryngeal.

HEBREW: *Nun* always assimilated to the following consonant within a word (e.g., הכו [hikkū] "they struck" [Shiloah 4] < \**nh* and תתן [tittin] "you shall give" [Arad 1:10] < \**ntn*). Also, the *nun* of מן "from" assimilated to a following consonant (e.g., מיין [miy-yayn] "of wine" [Arad 1:9] < \**min* + *yayn*, etc.), even if it were a laryngeal (e.g., מאתך [mē-ʾittāk] "from you" [Arad 5:2, 6:2] < \**min* + \**itt*- and מערד [mē-ʾrād] "from Arad" [Arad 24:12] < \**min* + 'Arad).

While the final *nun* of \**ntn* "to give" assimilated to the following consonant in the perfect (e.g., ונתת "and you will give" [Arad 2:7/8] < \**natant*-), the *nun* of other ל"ן verbs did not assimilate in the perfect, as in BH שכנתי "I dwelt" and ישנתי "I am asleep."<sup>163</sup> Although no such ל"ן verbs appear in epigraphic Hebrew, it is inferred from BH that this exception was present in the epigraphic texts as well.

All the dialects exhibit assimilation of *nun* to a following non-laryngeal consonant, when that consonant was part of the same word

as the *nun*. In Ammonite, Moabite, Edomite, and Hebrew, this assimilation extended to laryngeals as well. In Byblian, however, a following laryngeal obstructed the assimilation. Similarly, the assimilation of *nun* in מן "from" occurred in Ammonite, Moabite, Edomite, and Hebrew as an extension of the assimilation of *nun* within a word. In Old Aramaic, Samalian, and the Deir Alla dialect, the *nun* of מן "from" did not assimilate.

It is doubtful, however, that these instances of assimilation reflect a shared innovation; *nun* assimilates to a following consonant in several Semitic languages.<sup>164</sup> The assimilation of *nun*, then, is most likely a case of independent development in the NWS dialects.<sup>165</sup>

Two idiosyncratic innovations, however, can be isolated. Only<sup>166</sup> in Old Byblian did *nun* assimilate to the following consonant of a following word, in the construction \**bin* "son" + PN. Hebrew is also unique since in this dialect alone the *nun* of ל"ו verbs did not assimilate to a following consonant; cf. possibly standard Phoenician כת [kattī] "I was" < \**kantī*.<sup>167</sup> Thus, the assimilation of *nun* between words distinguishes Old Byblian (in \**bin* + PN), and the failure of the third radical of ל"ו verbs to assimilate distinguishes Hebrew.

## 10. The dissimilation of emphatics.

PHOENICIAN: Not in Phoenician (e.g., קץ "extremity" [Karatepe A I 14.21] and קצר "harvest" [Karatepe A III 2, C IV 5]).

ARAMAIC: The evidence suggests that initial \**q* + emphatic dissimilated to כ + emphatic, as in כצא "the summer" (Br-Rkb I:19) < \**qayt* and כטל "to kill" (Nerab I:11) < \**qtl* < \**qtl*.<sup>168</sup> See the later forms כציר "harvest" and הכצר "to harvest (?)" (Ahiqar 127), and כצפה "anger" (Ahiqar 101).<sup>169</sup> When \**q* was medial, it did not assimilate, as לקט "to collect" (Fekh. 22).

The distribution of this dissimilation suggests that it was a general, Aramaic phonetic trait. While in later dialects, particularly Mandaic,<sup>170</sup> dissimilation of *qoph* became characteristic of eastern Aramaic,<sup>171</sup> in the early period dissimilation occurred in both western (Samal) and eastern (Nerab) Syro-Palestinian Aramaic texts. At this period, then, dissimilation of initial *qoph* in the presence of an emphatic does not indicate any dialectal affinities with either East or West; cf. also the sporadic appearance of this dissimilation in later western Aramaic.<sup>172</sup>

SAMALIAN: Evidence uncertain. If Ginsberg<sup>173</sup> is correct in interpreting קשתה (H 26.32) as "his truth," this word would constitute evidence that emphatics could dissimilate in Samalian. The Samalian form would agree with that of Syriac [quštā], as opposed to Mandaic [kuštā] in which the first radical dissimilated. Yet while Ginsberg's new interpretation accords well with the context of H 26, it does not fit the military context of H 32 (hence the traditional meaning "his bow" is justified there).

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: Probably not in Deir Alla (e.g., קק "constraint" [14] < \*ḏwq).<sup>174</sup> There is, however, no word in the Deir Alla texts which begins with \*qoph and is followed by an emphatic.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Not in Hebrew (e.g., קק "summer" [Gezer Cal. 7] and קצר "to harvest" [Yavneh-Yam 1:3.4.10]).

The dissimilation of emphatics is found in Old Aramaic, and possibly in Samalian. The meager evidence suggests that this dissimilation was restricted to initial *qoph* + emphatic consonant. In Old Aramaic, the *qoph* dissimilated to *kaph*; in Samalian, the following emphatic dissimilated. In terms of distribution, the dissimilation of emphatics is found in both northern and central regions. In the later Aramaic dialects, however, it occurs most commonly in Mandaic (East Aramaic), but is also found sporadically in western dialects as well; the Samalian form קש\* has a parallel only in Syriac. While the dissimilation of emphatics was a specifically Aramaic innovation,<sup>175</sup> it was not particular to one Aramaic-speaking community.

## 11. Anaptyxis.

PHOENICIAN: Incipient anaptyxis in words whose middle radical was a laryngeal,<sup>176</sup> as especially in PN's containing the element בעל (*Ba<sup>2</sup>a-lu* [ANET<sup>3</sup>, pp. 290–292, 297]; *Ba<sup>2</sup>a-al-ma-lu-ku* [ANET<sup>3</sup>, p. 296], etc.<sup>177</sup>). Perhaps the transcription of the PN שפטבעל as *Sip-it-ti-bi<sup>2</sup>i-il* (ANET<sup>3</sup>, pp. 282, 283)<sup>178</sup> indicates that anaptyxis began to spread from middle laryngeal nouns to other, strong nouns.<sup>179</sup>



ARAMAIC: At least incipient anaptyxis, as seen in the contrast between צדֶה [sadê] "owl" (Sf. I A 33) < \*šady and גִּדֶה [gadê] "kid" (Sf. II A 2) < \*gady, over against צִבִּי "gazelle" (Sf. I A 33) < \*ṭaby.<sup>180</sup> While all three nouns are \*qatl- formations of final weak roots, the vacillation between final ה- and י- indicates different phonetic realizations. The forms with final ה- suggest that the vowel was [ê]; in other words, \*gady gained a secondary vowel between the second two radicals, \*gadiy, which contracted to [gadê].<sup>181</sup> The form אֲרִיָּה "lion" (Sf. II A 9) also presupposes anaptyxis since it is traceable from \*aryiy<sup>182</sup> > [ʔaryê]. צִבִּי, however, either preserves the older form with its final weak consonant, or it represents a different set of phonological changes from those in צדֶה and גִּדֶה. Cf., for example, BH בָּכָה "weeping" vs. בָּכִי "weeping."<sup>183</sup> The available evidence, then, suggests that anaptyxis was operative in at least its beginning stages.

SAMALIAN: Apparently not in Samalian, as for example שִׁבִּי "captives" (collective singular)<sup>184</sup> (P 8) < \*šiby. The examples adduced by Dion<sup>185</sup> to demonstrate anaptyxis—חבא (H 20), חרא (H 23), and חמא (H 33)—are semantically and morphologically difficult; anaptyxis cannot be proven by these examples alone. Finally, Poebel<sup>186</sup> and Dion<sup>187</sup> explained שִׁי "likeness, similitude" (H 18) as derived from \*šīwy > \*šīwiy > (syncopation of intervocalic waw) \*šīiy > [ši]; anaptyxis must be assumed if the development of this noun is to be traced correctly. Yet in this case as well, שִׁי may mean "gift"<sup>188</sup> (BH שִׁי) and need not involve anaptyxis at all. Thus there is no unambiguous example of anaptyxis in Samalian.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Probably not in the early period. Anaptyxis apparently began at a later time, as reflected, in its early stage, by Septuagint transcriptions.<sup>189</sup>

From the evidence at hand, only Phoenician and Aramaic show signs of anaptyxis in the eighth-seventh centuries B.C.E. Yet the relationship between anaptyxis in these two dialects is unclear. Anaptyxis may have developed independently in both dialects (cf. later Hebrew) or may have spread from one to the other (cf. the geographical contiguity of Phoenician and Aramaic). However, the his-

tory of the phenomenon itself,<sup>190</sup> suggesting a universal Semitic tendency to break up consonant clusters, as well as the strong isogloss between Aramaic and Phoenician dialects, indicate that anaptyxis probably arose independently in these two dialects.<sup>191</sup>

## 12. The prothetic *ʾaleph*.<sup>192</sup>

BYBLIAN: No evidence.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: If the prothetic *aleph* appears in אגד "band" (Karatepe A I 15),<sup>193</sup> this example is unique in standard Phoenician. It is also possible, however, that אגד represents an \*ʾaqtūl nominal formation. In that case, the prefixed *aleph* was not a phonetic feature but part of the nominal pattern.

In the later Phoenician dialects, particularly in Cyprian, the prothetic *aleph* commonly occurred before sibilants, as for example אשנם "two" (KAI 32:3) < \*šnēm and the demonstrative pronoun אז "this" (KAI 31:1, 32:2, etc.) < \*z.<sup>194</sup> In the early period, the only example of prothetic *aleph* before a sibilant is the relative שא < \*š.<sup>195</sup> In this case, however, the prothetic *aleph* also marked a syntactic difference: while שא was the relative particle, ש was the genitive.<sup>196</sup> The prothetic *aleph* in שא, then, was phonemic.

ARAMAIC: Only in אשם "name" (Sf. I C 25, II B 7) < \*šm<sup>197</sup> (cf. שם "name" [Zkr C 2.2; Nerab 1:10, 2:3]) and the place name ארן (Fekh. 13) < \*Zarāni (Fekh. Akkadian text, l. 20). The pronunciation of the place name, however, is uncertain. Either it was [ʾAzarāni]<sup>198</sup> or perhaps [ʾAzrāni] < \*Zrāni;<sup>199</sup> the latter vocalization presumes the loss of the initial unaccented vowel. The present evidence, then, suggests that the prothetic *aleph* appeared in Old Aramaic only before sibilants in (?) initial consonant clusters. Admittedly, two lone examples do not constitute a phonetic rule.

SAMALIAN: Only in isolated instances—אשם "name" (H 16.21), אגם "also" (P 5), and אסנב "two-thirds mina" (P 6). In אשם, the prothetic *aleph* broke up the initial consonant cluster \*šm by making the cluster noninitial. The *aleph* in אסנב was not, as some scholars believed,<sup>200</sup> part of the conjunction [wa], since there is no definite proof that Samalian had a conjunction ו beside the regular -ו.<sup>201</sup> Rather, the *aleph* broke up an initial consonant cluster \*sneb < Akkadian *sinepû*; the Akkadian word, probably with stress on the ultima, lost the first syllable since its short vowel in an open syllable was two positions away from the accent. In this way, the reduction

of the vowel created a consonant cluster, which in turn was broken up by a prothetic *aleph*.<sup>202</sup> Finally, the *aleph* in אגם remains unexplained, since the form גם "also" appears in H 8.9 and P 16.<sup>203</sup>

AMMONITE: Possibly in אשחת "cistern" (Sir. 5) and את/סחר "(?)" (Sir. 4).<sup>204</sup> The reading of the second word, however, is uncertain. Thompson and Zayadine<sup>205</sup> read the second letter as *taw* and derived the noun from \**hwr*. Cross<sup>206</sup> read the second letter *samekh* and interpreted the word as "wall (of circumnavigation)" < \**shr*. While both readings require the presence of a prothetic *aleph*, Cross' אסחר would suggest that in Ammonite, as in Cyprian Phoenician, prothetic *aleph* was attached only to sibilants; see also the relative particle אש < \**š*. Nevertheless, it is possible that the *aleph* in אשחת and את/סחר was part of the nominal formation (\**ʔaqtul*, \**ʔaqtal*, \**ʔaqtīl*, etc.).

DEIR ALLA: Only in אפרח "chick" (I 8). While Hoftijzer<sup>207</sup> interpreted the *aleph* as part of a broken plural formation, such broken plurals are uncommon in NWS.<sup>208</sup> Indeed, comparison with BH אפרח suggests that the *aleph* was merely phonetic. In this case, the *aleph* broke up an initial consonant cluster.

MOABITE: Only in אשח "cistern" (Mesha 9.23 [partially restored]). Since the vocalization of this word is not known, the exact function of the *aleph* is uncertain.<sup>209</sup> It is suspected, however, that it broke up an initial consonant cluster.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: There are no examples of the prothetic *aleph* in epigraphic Hebrew. The evidence of Masoretic Hebrew, however, suggests that in epigraphic Hebrew too, the prothetic *aleph* arose in order to break up initial consonant clusters. In Hebrew, moreover, there is no special connection between the prothetic *aleph* and initial sibilants.

Initial consonant clusters are unstable in all the Semitic languages and are commonly broken up by prothesis.<sup>210</sup> The prothetic *aleph* appears throughout the NWS dialects. In standard Phoenician and Old Aramaic, the scanty evidence suggests that the prothetic *aleph* was not a regular phonetic feature. In Ammonite, and possibly Moabite, as well as in later Phoenician dialects, the prothetic *aleph* was attracted to sibilants; in Old Aramaic too, both examples of the prothetic *aleph* preceded sibilants. In the Deir Alla dialect and Masoretic Hebrew, there was no special connection between the prothetic *aleph* and initial sibilants.

13. \*CV<sup>2</sup> > [CV].

PHOENICIAN: The *aleph* was lost, at least in speech, when it was syllable-closing<sup>211</sup> (e.g., \*ra<sup>2</sup>š > \*rāš > [rōš] = Greek ρω, and Punic *nasot* ‘‘I bore’’ [Poen. 947] < \*naša<sup>2</sup>tī). Although the *aleph* was lost in the spoken language, it was still written, as for example צאן [šōn] ‘‘sheep’’ (Karatepe A III 9, etc.), ראש [rōš] ‘‘head’’ (Kilamu 15.16), and the later Byblian form קראת [qarōti] ‘‘I called’’ (Yehawmilk 7).

ARAMAIC: There are only two alleged examples of the loss of *aleph* in Aramaic. The first, אהבד ‘‘I shall destroy’’ (Sf. II C 5), thought by some<sup>212</sup> to reflect the syncope of syllable-closing *aleph* in its beginning stages, is rather a scribal error for אהאבד which does appear in Sf. II C 4.<sup>213</sup> The other example is בירא ‘‘well (?)’’ (Sf. I B 34) < \*bi<sup>2</sup>r, where a syllable-closing *aleph* would have quiesced, producing a long vowel.<sup>214</sup> Yet even though the latter example is possible, syllable-closing *aleph* was otherwise retained in both verbs (e.g., פאל *peal* imperfects) and nouns (e.g., ראש ‘‘head’’). The lone example of בירא, then, is counterbalanced by the otherwise consistent preservation of *aleph* in all positions.

SAMALIAN: The only possible instance of the loss of postvocalic *aleph* is קרני ‘‘he summoned me’’ (H 13), if the verbal root is \*qr<sup>2</sup>.<sup>215</sup> In no other instance, however, was the *aleph* lost, as for example in פאל verbs (יאחז ‘‘he seizes’’ [H 15, etc.], יאמר ‘‘he will say’’ [H 17, etc.], and לאכל ‘‘to eat’’ [H 23]).<sup>216</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence of the loss of *aleph*. In both cases of syllable-closing *aleph*—צאן ‘‘sheep’’ (Hesh. Ost. 4:2.7.10) and דשא ‘‘grass’’ (Hesh. Ost. 4:9)—the *aleph* is retained in the orthography. Whether it persisted in the spoken language is unknown.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence of the loss of *aleph* from the consonantal text, for example יאנש ‘‘he will weaken’’ (II 10), ויאמר ‘‘and he said’’ (I 4/5), and ראש ‘‘head’’ (II 11).

MOABITE: There are two probable, and one possible, instances of the loss of *aleph*. רש ‘‘chief’’ (Mesha 20) is probably cognate to the common Semitic \*ra<sup>2</sup>š; the *aleph* had therefore been absorbed into the preceding [a].<sup>217</sup> The other likely candidate is בר ‘‘cistern’’ (Mesha 24.25). Whether this word is cognate to BH באר < \*bi<sup>2</sup>r<sup>218</sup> or to BH בור < bu<sup>2</sup>r,<sup>219</sup> the outcome is identical; syllable-closing *aleph* was lost in the Moabite word. That syllable-closing *aleph* was not always lost, however, is proven by צאן ‘‘sheep’’ (Mesha 31).<sup>220</sup> The latter, however, is probably a historical spelling.

Finally, it is possible that *aleph* was lost in רִית “spectacle (?)” (Mesha 12), if the root is \*r<sup>2</sup>y.<sup>221</sup> Yet the nominal pattern of this word is thoroughly obscure. Would the supposed *aleph* have been syllable-opening or syllable-closing?

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Postvocalic *aleph* was lost in, for example, לָקֵרַת “to-ward” (Shiloah 4) = BH לָקֵרַת.<sup>222</sup> *Aleph* is present in, for example, רֹאשׁ “head” (Shiloah 6). Like BH, then, syllable-closing *aleph* was absorbed into the preceding vowel in epigraphic Hebrew;<sup>223</sup> the appearance of etymological *aleph* in forms such as ראש is attributable to historical spelling.

With respect to the loss of postvocalic *aleph*, the first-millennium NWS dialects fall into two groups. In the Deir Alla dialect and Old Aramaic (except for one possible example), etymological *aleph* was always preserved in syllable-closing position. Ammonite is the only overall Canaanite dialect which preserved *aleph* in all texts, although the quiescence of this consonant might have begun in the spoken language.

In Phoenician, Moabite, and Masoretic Hebrew, the syllable-closing *aleph* was lost. This syncope was (presumably) consistent in all three dialects, although only in Moabite and Hebrew did the loss of *aleph* enter the written language as well. In Samalian too, postvocalic *aleph* might have been absorbed into the preceding vowel. Since the consonantal quality of *aleph* had weakened severely in several Semitic languages,<sup>224</sup> the syncope of *aleph* in NWS reflects a general Semitic phenomenon. The loss of syllable-closing *aleph*, then, might have developed independently in the individual NWS dialects.

#### 14. The aphaeresis of <sup>2</sup>*aleph*.

BYBLIAN: Initial *aleph* was not lost (see examples below).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: In Phoenician personal names, there was a tendency to drop initial *aleph* when it began an open syllable two positions away from the accent, as for example *Hi-ru-um-mu* (ANET<sup>3</sup>, p. 283) = חִרְם (KAI 31:1) < אַחֲרֹם [<sup>2</sup>Ahīrōm] (Ahirom 1) and *Tu-ba<sup>2</sup>-lu* (ANET<sup>3</sup>, p. 287) < אַתְבַּעַל (Ahirom 1).<sup>225</sup> Whether this aphaeresis was a regular feature of the spoken language, however, cannot be determined.

ARAMAIC: Loss of initial *aleph* occurred only in the numeral "one" חר (Sf. I B 26.26, etc.; Br-Rkb 1:13) < \**aḥad* (as in Arabic and Ugaritic). Cf., in contrast, אנש "man" (Sf. III 16 [plural]; Fekh. 9.14) and אשרת "sanctuary" (Sf. I B 11) < Akk. *aširtu*.

Since aphaeresis of *aleph* was restricted to a single word, it cannot have been a regular phonetic feature of the dialect. In some way, the aphaeresis was peculiar to this numeral.<sup>226</sup> Perhaps the loss of *aleph* was conditioned by the construction "one" + bound plural noun, as for example חר מלכן "one king" (Sf. I B 26; Br-Rkb 1:13) and חר מלכי ארפד "one of the kings of Arpad" (Sf. III 1). The initial syllable of \**aḥad*, both open and removed from the principal stress of the construct phrase, was lost in this very unstable position. Whatever the origin of this aphaeresis, however, the form [ḥad] < \**aḥad* became characteristic of all Aramaic dialects.<sup>227</sup>

SAMALIAN: Loss of initial *aleph* occurred only in the numeral "one" חר (H 15.27; P 5), as in Old Aramaic and Deir Alla;<sup>228</sup> no other noun shows this aphaeresis, as the form אנש "man" (P 23) suggests. It is unclear, however, whether the form חר was borrowed from Aramaic or participated in the same innovation as in Aramaic (cf. H 27.27 and P 5). Nevertheless, the restriction of this aphaeresis to חר is notable. See, similarly, Deir Alla.

AMMONITE: No evidence. The alleged attestation of the numeral "one," חר\*, in the phrase כחר אכחר (Cit. 3)<sup>229</sup> does not exist. Rather, כחר אכחר is an inf. absolute + imperfect of the root \**kḥd* "to destroy."<sup>230</sup>

DEIR ALLA: Initial *aleph* was lost only in the numeral "one" חר (II 10). Cf., perhaps, אנפה "heron" (I 8) < BH אנפה.

MOABITE: *Aleph* was not lost in initial position (e.g., אחר "after" [Mesha 3]).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Loss of initial *aleph* occurred only in נחנח "we" (Lach. 4:10/11) < BH אנחנח.<sup>231</sup> In view of the common BH [ʔaḥnānū], the epigraphic form appears to have lost the initial *aleph*. Yet in comparison with other Semitic forms of this pronoun, for example Arabic [naḥnu], Akk. *nīnu*, and Eth. [nḥna], the epigraphic form is historically correct; the reconstructed Proto-Semitic form does not have an initial *aleph*.<sup>232</sup> And, since there is no other example of the first person plural independent pronoun in epigraphic Hebrew, it is unclear whether this form was the common one or whether an initial *aleph* (cf. BH) was indeed lost. Nevertheless, the loss of an initial

ʾ + short vowel in an open, unaccented syllable is consistent with the general pattern of the other NWS dialects.

Initial ʾ + short vowel, in an open, unaccented syllable is subject to aphaeresis in the first-millennium NWS dialects. On the basis of the present evidence, the aphaeresis was absent from Byblian and Moabite, whereas it occurred, to different degrees, in standard Phoenician, Old Aramaic, Samalian, the Deir Alla dialect, and (?) Hebrew. In standard Phoenician, this process was most prominent, for PNs often lost this syllable when it lay two positions away from the accent. In Old Aramaic, Samalian, and the Deir Alla dialect, loss of initial *aleph* was restricted to the numeral "one" חר < \*ʾahad; in Samalian and Deir Alla, though, it is unclear whether this loss of initial *aleph* reflects an innovation shared with Old Aramaic or whether חר was borrowed from Old Aramaic. Nevertheless, given the restricted nature of this aphaeresis to a single word, the form חר connects these three dialects as one dialectal group. Finally, loss of initial *aleph* may have occurred in Hebrew, only in the pronoun "we" נחנו.

### 15. The syncope of *yodh* between short vowels (except \*wa + impf.).

BYBLIAN: The only evidence pertains to the syncope in originally final position. In לִי verbs, intervocalic *yodh* did not syncopate, as for example על [ʿalaya] "he attacks" (Ahirom 2), בני [banaya] "he built" (Yehimilk 1; Shiptibaal 1), and חיי [ḥawwa/iya] "he restored" (Yehimilk 2).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: Syncope was regular in final position, as in final weak perfect verbs (e.g., חז [ḥazō] "he saw" [Kilamu 11.11.12] < \*ḥazâ < \*ḥazaya).<sup>233</sup> In initial position, however, the evidence is mixed. In the causative conjugation, intervocalic *yodh* was lost in the imperfect (e.g., יק "he damages" [Kilamu 14] < ייק\*), whereas in the preposition "through" both forms appear (e.g., ba-di-u [EA 245:35] = בר [bōd] [KAI 60:1] vs. ביד [Kilamu 6; cf. l. 13]).

A possible exception to the syncope of intervocalic *yodh* is לפתח "may it be opened" (Arsl.T. 1:22/23).<sup>234</sup> Whether the prefixed ל־ be vocalized [lū], [li], or [lu], the effect is identical: the *yodh* remains. Yet new readings of this text have shown that this form does not

exist. In its stead, אל־יפתח should be read.<sup>235</sup> Intervocalic *yodh*, then, syncopated everywhere except in the preposition בִּיד "through" (Kilamu 6).

ARAMAIC: Syncope was regular in final weak perfect verbs, as for example הוּת [hawât] "it became" (Sf. III 24) < \*hawaya-t. In initial position, *yodh* did not syncopate in בִּיד [ba/i-yad] "through" (Zkr A 12), but syncopation occurred when the precative *lamedh* was followed by the third person jussive (as for example לְהִי לְהִי "may he be" [Fekh. 12] < \*li-yihway, לֹאכְלוּ "may they eat" [Fekh. 22] < \*li-ya<sup>3</sup>kulû, etc.).<sup>236</sup>

SAMALIAN: Intervocalic *yodh* syncopated in final weak perfect verbs, as for example הוּת [hawât] "it was/fell" (P 2) < \*hawaya-t and perhaps שְׂתָא "it drank" (H 9) < \*šataya. In initial position, however, the *yodh* did not always syncopate. It did not syncopate in בִּיד [ba/i-yad] "in the hand of" (H 2.4.8), בִּיאֲדִי "in Y<sup>3</sup>dy" (H 25), etc. It did syncopate when precative ל־ was attached to third person imperfect verbs, as in לִמְנַע [limna<sup>c</sup>] "may he prevent" (H 24) < \*li-yimna<sup>c</sup> and לִכְתֹּשָׁה "may they pound him" (H 31) < \*li-yaktušû.<sup>237</sup>

AMMONITE: The evidence indicates that intervocalic *yodh* syncopated in final weak perfect verbs, as for example בָּנָה [banô] "he built" (Cit. 1) < \*banâ < \*banaya.<sup>238</sup> In the preposition "from, through," the *yodh* was retained in the PN בִּידֶאל<sup>239</sup> but was lost in the PN בִּדֶאל.<sup>240</sup>

DEIR ALLA: Intervocalic *yodh* syncopated in final weak perfect verbs, as for example שְׁחָה [šahâ (?)] "it is desolate" (II 14) < \*šahaya. The presence of *yodh* in שְׁחָה (I 10), however, does not fall into this category since *yodh* was followed by a long vowel.<sup>241</sup>

MOABITE: Intervocalic *yodh* syncopated in final weak perfect verbs, as for example בָּנָה [banâ (?)] "he built" (Meša 18) < \*banaya. No other example of the syncopation of intervocalic *yodh* appears.

EDOMITE: There is no evidence to indicate whether intervocalic *yodh* syncopated in final weak verbs. Initial *yodh*, however, might have been lost in בִּיד "from, through" < \*ba/i-yad, which forms part of a PN in Ost. 6043:2<sup>242</sup> (partially restored) and which might have been an independent preposition in the Umm el-Biyara ostrakon.<sup>243</sup>

HEBREW: Intervocalic *yodh* was syncopated in final weak perfect verbs, as for example הָיָה [hâyâ] "it was" (Shiloah 1) < \*hayaya and עָשָׂה [‘āšâ] "he did" (Lach. 4:3) < \*‘ašaya. Intervocalic *yodh*



did not syncopate in initial position (e.g., בִּיד "through" [Arad 17:9; cf. the restored passages in Arad 16:5/6 and 24:13/14]).<sup>244</sup>

In varying degrees, intervocalic *yodh* was syncopated in all first-millennium NWS dialects. Standard Phoenician, Aramaic, Samalian, Ammonite, the Deir Alla dialect, Moabite, and Hebrew have lost the final *yodh* in the perfect of final weak verbs. In Byblian Phoenician, however, this final *yodh* was preserved.

The form of the composite preposition יָ + ב also differed within the dialects. In Samalian-Phoenician, Aramaic, Samalian, and Hebrew, intervocalic *yodh* did not syncopate. In later Phoenician and Edomite, the *yodh* disappeared. Ammonite shows examples of each spelling. Perhaps the different forms are traceable to different vocalizations of the preposition -ב.<sup>245</sup>

Finally, an initial *yodh* in verbal forms was lost in standard Phoenician, Old Aramaic, and Samalian. In standard Phoenician, the *yodh* of the causative conjugation was lost in all imperfect forms. In Aramaic and Samalian, the *yodh* of the third person jussive forms was lost following the precative *lamedh*. The phonetic environment in Aramaic and Samalian was apparently identical, whereas that of Phoenician was probably different.

## 16. The syncope of intervocalic *he*.

BYBLIAN: Only the *he* of the third person masc. sing. suffix attached to singular nouns was syncopated in Byblian.<sup>246</sup> The syncopation occurred between the tenth and ninth centuries. In the Ahirom inscription, intervocalic *he* was present in the suffix, as for example אבִּה [ʾabī-hū] "his father" (l. 1), מִשְׁפָּטָה [mašpaṭi-hū] "of his judgment" (l. 2), and מַלְכָּה [mulki-hū] "of his dominion" (l. 2); cf. שָׂתָה [šōtahū] "he placed him" (l. 1). One century later the *he* was lost, as in אֲדֹתָו [ʾadōttaw, -tō] or [ʾadōtti] "his lady" (Elibaal 2; Shiptibaal 4) < \*ʾadōttahū or \*-tihū; the quality of the connecting vowel is unknown. Cf. also the fifth-century form זָרַע [zarʾaw, -rō] "his seed" (Yehawmilk 15) < \*zarʾahū.<sup>247</sup>

Intervocalic *he* did not syncopate when the definite article followed the conjunction וְ "and." Although the evidence is late, the forms וְהָעֶרְפַּת "and the portico" (Yehawmilk 6) < \*wa-ha . . . and וְהָעֶפֶת "and the bird" (Yehawmilk 5) < \*wa-ha . . . demonstrate that, in Byblian, *h* of the definite article was not lost after \*wa "and."

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: The *he* of the third person possessive and objective suffixes was lost when attached to consonantal endings, as for example שם [šmô] 'his name' (Karatepe A III 14.16) < \**-a-hû*, שם [šmâ] 'its name' (Karatepe A II 10.18) < \**-a-hâ*, and ישבם [yôšibôm] '(I) made them settle' (Karatepe A I 20) < \**-a-humu*. If, however, a vowel preceded the suffix, the resultant form was י- for the singular and ים- for the plural suffixes.<sup>248</sup>

The definite article *he* was lost after the prepositions ב- and ל- (e.g., במקום 'in the places' [Karatepe A II 3] < ב\* + ה) and after the conjunction ו- 'and'<sup>249</sup> (e.g., ועם 'and this people' [Karatepe A III 7/8, C IV 7] < ו\* + ה and וחב 'and the sacrifice' [Karatepe C IV 2] < ו\* + ה, etc.).<sup>250</sup>

ARAMAIC: Intervocalic *he* did not syncopate in Old Aramaic. The supposed exceptions to this rule are, in fact, uncertain. While, for example, the causative form יסכר 'he will hand over' in Sf. III 3, without the causative *he*, may reflect the syncopation of intervocalic *he* (cf. the correct יהסכר in Sf. III 3),<sup>251</sup> יסכר is most likely a scribal error.<sup>252</sup> The other, more celebrated example of this syncope in the third person masc. sing. suffix וה-<sup>253</sup> is likewise questionable;<sup>254</sup> in no other NWS dialect was the *he* syncopated in this suffix.<sup>255</sup>

The only real exception to the rule of nonsyncopation is in Fekh.-Aramaic, where the third person plural suffixes on sing. nouns were ם- (Fekh. 4.4) and ן- (Fekh. 3.5), masc. and fem.<sup>256</sup>

SAMALIAN: Syncopation of intervocalic *he* occurred only in the imperfect of the causative conjugation (e.g., יקם [yâqim] 'he will erect' [H 28] < \**yula-haqim* and יזכר [yâzkir (?)] 'he will mention' [H 16] < \**yula-hazkir*).<sup>257</sup> The *he* in the third person suffixes did not syncopate (e.g., אבא 'his father' [H 29; P 2, etc.] and ידיה 'his hands' [H 29]).

AMMONITE: It is unclear whether, or to what extent, intervocalic *he* syncopated in Ammonite. There are, for example, no occurrences of the definite article ה- preceded by the prepositions ב- or ל-; but the definite article did not syncopate after \**wa* 'and' (e.g., והגנת 'and the garden' [Sir. 4] and והאת/סחר 'and the (?)' [Sir. 4]). There are also no examples of the causative stem in the imperfect.<sup>258</sup>

It is likely that intervocalic *he* was retained in the third person suffixes. Nevertheless, all suffixed forms are not completely understood. If, for example, כרה 'its laver (?)' (Cit. 5) contains the third person masc. sing. suffix on a masc. sing. noun,<sup>259</sup> the final *he* marks

the suffix. And according to the orthographic pattern of this inscription, this *he* is most likely consonantal. Cf. similarly Cross<sup>260</sup> reading אכחד[ה] "I shall extirpate him" (Cit. 3).

DEIR ALLA: Intervocalic *he* was syncopated in the causative imperfect (example uncertain).<sup>261</sup> *He* of the third person suffixes, however, was retained in the singular (e.g., לכבה "his heart" [II 12] and עמה "his people" [I 4, II 17]) and plural (only on prepositions, e.g., להם "to them" [I 5]). In the plural suffix attached to sing. nouns, the form was מ- < \**-a-humu*<sup>262</sup> (e.g., בלבבם "in their heart" [II 12]<sup>263</sup>). Cf. Hebrew.

MOABITE: Intervocalic *he* syncopated when the definite article was preceded by an enclitic preposition (e.g., בקר "in the city" [Mesha 11] < \**bi/a-haq-qir*),<sup>264</sup> and when the causative particle *he* was preceded by a personal pronoun of the imperfect (e.g., ואשב "and I brought back" [Mesha 12] < שב + ה + א\*).

It is unclear, however, whether *he* syncopated in third person sing. suffixes. According to Harris,<sup>265</sup> intervocalic *he* has syncopated. He vocalized ארצה "his land" (Mesha 5/6) as [ʔarʃô] < \**arʃahû*; for final *he* as [ô], he adduced the name נבה "Nebo" (Mesha 14) = BH נבו. Yet the exact value of the final *he* in נבה as a transcription of Akkadian "Nabu" is uncertain, especially in view of the spelling נבא in Sf. I A 8;<sup>266</sup> there are no other certain examples of Moabite ה- with the value [ô].<sup>267</sup> Further, the *he* of the third person masc. sing. suffix was present on masc. plural nouns (e.g., ימה "his days" [Mesha 8] and רשה "its chiefs" [Mesha 20]; cf. שעריה "its gates" [Mesha 22]). Thus, since there is no syncopation of the suffixed *he* on plural nouns, it is uncertain whether the suffixed *he* on sing. nouns syncopated either. There remain, then, two possibilities: (1) syncopation of *he* did not occur in the Moabite third person suffixes, comparable to the situation in Old Aramaic and probably Samalian;<sup>268</sup> or (2) intervocalic *he* syncopated after an *a*-vowel (e.g., [ʔarʃô] < \**ahû*) but remained after long/contracted vowels (e.g., [yômôh] < \**awh* < \**awhû*),<sup>269</sup> comparable to standard Phoenician and Hebrew. On the basis of the orthography, either alternative is possible.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Intervocalic *he* was syncopated when the prepositions ב-, ל-, and כ- preceded the definite article (e.g., בצר "in the rock" [Shiloah 3] < צר + ה + ב\* and לשר "to the officer" [Yavneh-Yam 1:12] < שר + ה + ל\*), and in the *hiphil* imperfect (e.g., ישמע "may

he cause to hear" [Lach. 2:1, 3:2, etc.] < \**yu/a-hašmī*<sup>6</sup>). After the conjunction \**wa*, however, the definite article did not syncopate.

Syncopation of intervocalic *he* in the third person suffixes is a more complicated issue.<sup>270</sup> In general, the third person masc. sing. suffix lost *he* after short *a* (e.g., עבדו [ʿabdō] "his servant" [Lach. 2:5] < \**-aw* < \**-ahū* and אמתו [ʿmātō] "his maidservant" [Silwan B 2] < \**-aw* < \**-ahū*; similarly the objective suffix, לקחה [lqāḥō] "he took him" [Lach. 4:6] < \**-aw* < \**laqaḥ* + *a* + *hū* and שלחה [šlḥā] "he sent it" [Lach. 3:21] < \**šalaḥ* + *a* + *hū*); after accented connecting vowels, the *he* was retained (e.g., the objective suffix on ועלהו "and he brought him up" [Lach. 4:6/7]). Similarly, the third person plural suffix lost intervocalic *he* after short *a* (e.g., ימם [yômām] "their day" [Ajrud] < \**-ahem* < \**-a-humu* and אתם [ʾōtām] "them" [Arad 3:6] < \**-ahem* < \*<sup>3</sup>*ōt* + *a* + *humu*; so too the objective suffix in והבקידם [w<sup>3</sup>-hibqīdām (?)] "and he will hand them over" [Arad 24:14/15] < \**hibqīd* + *a* + *humu*), except in the monoconsonantal prepositions (e.g., להם "to/for them" [Arad 1:8] < \**la-humu*); intervocalic *he* was retained after long vowels (no examples from the epigraphic texts).

Two problematic forms, however, remain. In רעו "his fellow" (Shiloah 3), the third person masc. sing. suffix appears as *waw* instead of *he*. Although Cross and Freedman<sup>271</sup> vocalized the form [re<sup>6</sup>ew], such a suffix [ew] would be anomalous on final weak roots; cf. BH רעהו "his fellow" and ועלהו (Lach. 4:6/7). Rather, the final *waw* in רעו is an alternate spelling for the third person masc. sing. suffix ה-. The form, then, should be vocalized [re<sup>6</sup>ō] < \**re<sup>6</sup>* + *ahū*. The base of רעו was \**ri<sup>6</sup>*, in contrast to the final weak root in BH.<sup>272</sup> Cf. the suffixed forms of BH שדה "field."

The other problematic form is the third person masc. sing. suffix on masc. plural nouns. Whereas most scholars<sup>273</sup> posited syncope of *he* in this suffix, it is unnecessary to trace the development of the suffixed form in this fashion. Such a derivation does not accord with the other forms of the suffix in the NWS dialects.

Intervocalic *he* in the first-millennium NWS dialects syncopated in different degrees. All NWS dialects with a prefixed definite article lost the article when it was preceded by a monoconsonantal preposition. In standard Phoenician, the definite article was lost after the conjunction \**wa* "and" as well. Standard Phoenician, then, extended the application of a general phonetic rule.

Of those dialects which had *he* as the causative prefix, *he* was lost in imperfect forms in Samalian, Deir Alla (?), Moabite, and Hebrew. In contrast, causative *he* was consistently preserved in Old Aramaic. Old Aramaic was therefore conservative in this respect.

The treatment of intervocalic *he* varied most in the third person pronominal suffixes. On the basis of the present evidence, this *he* did not syncopate in Old Byblian, Old Aramaic (except at Fekheriyeh), and (probably) Moabite; preservation of intervocalic *he* may have been the rule in Samalian, Ammonite, and the singular suffix in Deir Alla as well. In contrast to these dialects, intervocalic *he* was lost in later Byblian  $\text{r- [aw, ô]} < *a-hû$ , standard Phoenician suffixes attached to consonantal endings, and in the third person plural suffix in the speech of Fekheriyeh and Deir Alla (attached to consonants). If this characterization is correct, the singular suffix in Fekh.-Aramaic and Deir Alla followed the Old Byblian-Old Aramaic pattern (preservation), while the plural suffix followed standard Phoenician (syncope).

*He* of the third person suffixes in Hebrew and standard Phoenician behaved differently. In Hebrew, *he* syncopated after *a*, but it was preserved after long or accented vowels. In standard Phoenician, however, *he* syncopated when the suffix was attached to a consonant (e.g.,  $[\hat{o}] < *ahû$ ). But when attached to a vocalic ending, *he* was replaced by *yodh* in the singular suffixes and by *nun* in the plural. The derivation of the syncopated form, however, is identical in both dialects:  $*ahû > [\hat{o}]$  (sing. suff.), and  $*a-humu > [\hat{a}m]$  (Hebrew) and  $[\hat{om}]$  (standard Phoenician) (plural suff.). Whereas, then, the development of the suffixes with syncopated *he* unites Hebrew and standard Phoenician, the synchronic rules for choosing the syncopated or nonsyncopated suffix were idiosyncratic in each dialect.

## 17. The palatalization of ה\*.

BYBLIAN: No palatalization, for example משפט *“of his judgment”* and מלכה *“of his rule”* (Ahirom 2). There is no example of the causative particle in this dialect.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: ה\* changed to י in the presence of an *i*-vowel.<sup>274</sup> Palatalization of ה\* was restricted to third person sing. pronominal suffixes (e.g., למ-נער  $[\text{li-min-na}^{\text{c}}\text{urê-yû/î}]$ <sup>275</sup> *“from his youth”* [Kilamu 12]  $< *ê-hû < *ay-hû$  and צרתי  $[\text{šarôti-yû/î}]$  *“of his co-wives”* [Arsl.T. 1:17]  $< *i-hû$ )<sup>276</sup> and the *yiphil* causative

stem (i.e. [yip<sup>c</sup>il] < \*hip<sup>c</sup>il; cf. EA 256:7 *hi-ih-bi-e* ‘‘he hid’’ with prefixed *i*-vowel in the perfect causative). This palatalization did not extend to the independent pronouns of the third person.<sup>277</sup>

ARAMAIC: No palatalization, since the causative prefix and pronominal suffixes of the third person were formed with *he*.

SAMALIAN: No palatalization.

AMMONITE: No palatalization.

DEIR ALLA: No palatalization.

MOABITE: No palatalization.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: No palatalization.

Palatalization of \**he* to *yodh* was a strictly Phoenician phonetic phenomenon, occurring only in the presence of [i] and *i*-grade vowels. Within Phoenician, it was restricted to standard Phoenician. This palatalization occurred only in one set of pronominal suffixes and the causative particle; it did not spread to the third person independent pronouns.

### 18a. The correspondences of final \*-*ât*.

BYBLIAN: No evidence.<sup>278</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: \*-*ât* was preserved in absolute fem. sing. nouns (e.g., עלמת [‘almôt] ‘‘lass’’ [Kilamu 8] < \*-*ât* < \*-*ât* and אלת [‘ilôt] ‘‘goddess’’ [Arsl.T. 1:1] < \*-*ât* < \*-*ât*).

ARAMAIC: [â] in abs. fem. sing. nouns (e.g., לחיה ‘‘bad’’ [Sf. I A 26] and מאה ‘‘100’’ [Fekh. 20.20.21.22]).

The only possible exceptions are in the nouns מרמת ‘‘rebellion’’ (Sf. III 22) and שאת ‘‘ewe’’ (Sf. I A 21). Yet neither noun contained an original ending \*-*ât*. מרמת is derived from \**marmay* + *at* > [mar-mât].<sup>279</sup> שאת probably developed from \**ta’* + *t* > [ta’t].<sup>280</sup> Neither form, then, constitutes an exception to the shift \*-*ât* > [â] in absolute feminine singular nouns.

SAMALIAN: [â] in abs. fem. sing. nouns (e.g., חטה ‘‘wheat’’ [H 6; P 6.9] and שערה ‘‘barley’’ [H 6; P 6.9]).

AMMONITE: \*-*ât* was preserved in abs. fem. sing. nouns (e.g., גנת [gannat (?)] ‘‘garden’’ [Sir. 4] and אשחת ‘‘cistern’’ [Sir. 5]).

DEIR ALLA: \*-*ât* changed to ה- [â] in the abs. fem. sing. noun (e.g., אנפה ‘‘heron’’ [I 8] and כהנה ‘‘priestess’’ [I 11]).

MOABITE: \*-át was preserved in abs. fem. sing. nouns (e.g., רִית "spectacle (?)" [Mesha 12] and הַמְסֵלַת "the highway" [Mesha 26]).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: \*-át had shifted to [á] in the abs. fem. sing. noun (e.g., הַנֶּקֶבָה "the tunnel" [Shiloah 1], הַבְּרֵכָה "(the) pool" [Shiloah 5; Arad 28:7], and הָרָעָה "the evil thing" [Arad 40:15]).

To a certain extent, all the NWS dialects exhibit the tendency to shift final \*-át > [á].<sup>281</sup> This change appeared in Old Aramaic, Samalian, Deir Alla, and Hebrew. \*-át was preserved in standard Phoenician, Ammonite, and Moabite. Since, however, the correspondence \*-át:[á] was not an exclusively shared innovation,<sup>282</sup> its appearance resulted from independent development or diffusion.

### 18b. The correspondences of \*-at.

BYBLIAN: Final \*-at was preserved in the pronoun הוּא [hu'at (?)] "he" (Yehimilk 2). There is no direct evidence for \*-at of the third person fem. sing. perfect; in later Byblian, however, it had changed to [ā]<sup>283</sup> (e.g., שָׁמַע [šam(a)ā] "she heard" [Yehawmilk 3.8]).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: \*-at was preserved in the pronoun הִמָּת [humat (?)] "they" (Kilamu 13; Karatepe A I 17). It was not preserved in third person fem. sing. perfect verbs (e.g., כָּרַת [kar(a)tā] "she made a covenant" [Arsl.T. 1:10] < \*karatat).

ARAMAIC: \*-at was preserved in the third person fem. sing. perfect, as for example שָׁבַת "it returned" (Sf. III 25).

SAMALIAN: \*-at was preserved in third person fem. sing. perfect verbs, as for example כָּבַרַת "it was abundant" and אָכַלַת "it ate" (P 9).

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: \*-at was preserved in the third person fem. sing. perfect verb, as for example חָרַפַּת "it reproached" (I 7/8) and הִקְרַקַּת "it chased" (I 15). Adverbial \*-at, however, became [ā], as in שָׁמָּה "there, thither" (II 13.14) < \*šamat.<sup>284</sup>

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: \*-at changed into [ā] in adverbs (e.g., שָׁמָּה "there" [Lach. 4:8; Arad 24:20]), and presumably in the third person plural

independent pronoun (BH הִמָּה) and the third person fem. sing. perfect (although there is no epigraphic evidence).

In final weak verbs, however, final *\*t* of the third person fem. sing. perfect was preserved, as in הָיָת [hāyât] "there was" (Shiloah 3).<sup>285</sup> The *\*t* was preserved in this form, in contrast to other examples of *\*-at* > [ā], because it was preceded by a long, contracted vowel. The form הָיָת developed from *\*hayaya-t* > *\*hayayat* > [hāyât].<sup>286</sup> Cf. the Old Aramaic fem. sing. nominal form in [āt].

*\*-at* of the third person fem. sing. perfect was preserved in Old Aramaic, Samalian, and the Deir Alla dialect. In standard Phoenician, Hebrew, and later Byblian, it shifted to [ā]. The deictic/adverbial ending *\*-at*, however, was preserved in Byblian and standard Phoenician, in contrast to its change to [ā] in Deir Alla and Hebrew. Thus, like the correspondences of *\*-āt*, *\*-at* probably developed independently in the different NWS dialects.

## 19. Case endings.

BYBLIAN: Final short vowels may have been preserved in this dialect. The evidence, however, is indirect. The third person masc. sing. perfect of final weak verbs ended in י. For example, בָּנִי "he built" (Yehimilk I; Shiptibaal I) was probably pronounced [banaya], with final [a];<sup>287</sup> since final short vowels did not drop in verbal forms, it is inferred that they did not drop in nouns.<sup>288</sup> Further, the *nota accusativi* does not appear in these texts. Since the appearance of this particle coincided with the loss of final short vowels—in order to distinguish between subjective and objective nouns after the morphological distinction disappeared<sup>289</sup>—the absence of this particle in Old Byblian suggests that a grammatical distinction between the cases was preserved.

There is no evidence of the presence of plural case distinctions. The masc. plural morpheme, ׀-, does not indicate whether a vocalic distinction was preserved between nominative and oblique cases.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: It is unclear whether cases were preserved in this dialect. On the one hand, an orthographic distinction was maintained between "my" when attached to masc./fem. sing. nominative/accusative nouns and when attached to the corresponding genitive noun; in the former case, the orthography is -Ø [ī] while in the latter it is י- [iya (?)]. Similarly in the masc./fem. third person



sing. suffixes, - $\emptyset$  vs. - $\text{r}$ . This orthography suggests that case distinctions, at least in the singular noun, were preserved.<sup>290</sup>

On the other hand, the appearance of the *nota accusativi* אִית in Karatepe A I 3, III 3, etc., suggests that the distinction between nominative and accusative nouns was lost. Further, the thesis concerning the orthographic distinction between nominative/accusative and genitive sing. nouns may be unsound. Instead of reflecting the actual pronunciation of the language, the orthography may have been historical. In other words, by the time of these texts, the Phoenician orthography could have been standardized and may have reflected mere orthographic convention instead of actual pronunciation;<sup>291</sup> cf. the spelling of the PN [Kilamû] as כלמו < \*-muwa. It remains ambiguous, then, whether final short vowels were or were not pronounced.<sup>292</sup>

As in Byblian, there is no evidence for the distinction between nominative and oblique plural nouns in standard Phoenician.

ARAMAIC: Final short vowels were probably lost in Old Aramaic. The absolute fem. sing. nominal ending ה- [ā] could have arisen only after the final vowel of \*-ātu was lost, producing \*-ât, and finally [ā].<sup>293</sup> Note also the appearance of the *nota accusativi* אִית.

SAMALIAN: Case vowels were present in masc. plural nouns but not in masc./fem. sing. or fem. plural nouns.<sup>294</sup> In masc. plural nouns, the nominative ended in [û] (e.g., מלכו "kings" [P 17] and אלוה "gods" [H 2]), and the oblique case ended in [î] (e.g., באבני "with stones" [H 31.31] and קדם.אלוה "before the gods" [P 23]). The loss of the short case vowels, however, is demonstrated by the form of the abs. fem. sing. nominal ending ה- < \*-ât < \*-ātu and also by the transcription of the PN *Pa-na-am-mu-u* (ANET<sup>3</sup>, pp. 282, 283) < \*-muwa.<sup>295</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence. The preservation of final \*-ât in abs. fem. sing. nouns does not necessarily indicate the presence of final short vowels, since \*-ât is an intermediate stage between \*-ātu (as in Ugaritic and Akkadian) and [ā] (as in Hebrew, etc.).

DEIR ALLA: Final short vowels were probably lost in the Deir Alla dialect. The abs. fem. sing. nominal ending [ā] could have arisen only after final short vowels were lost.

MOABITE: There were probably no case endings in Moabite, since the *nota accusativi* was frequently employed.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Case endings were lost throughout Hebrew, as the appearance of the *nota accusativi* and the abs. fem. sing. nominal morpheme ה- < \*-ât < \*-ātu indicate.

The only possible exception to the loss of case vowels in Hebrew is the form יחרו in the Gezer Calendar, II, 1.1.2. Ginsberg,<sup>296</sup> for example, suggested that the final waw marked [ô], derived from \*â of the nominative dual ending. Garbini<sup>297</sup> believed that the waw marked the old nominative plural [û]. Yet the ending of this noun remains enigmatic. No certain conclusions can be based on this form alone.

Case endings were, for the most part, lost throughout the first-millennium NWS dialects.<sup>298</sup> Only Byblian and, to a lesser extent, standard Phoenician may have preserved case endings in the singular noun; they do not, however, appear to have retained case distinctions in the masc. plural. In the opposite manner, Samalian preserved case distinctions in the masc. plural, although the singular endings were lost. All other contemporary NWS dialects had lost both singular and plural case endings.

### Notes to Chapter 2

1. See Zellig S. Harris, *Development of the Canaanite Dialects*, American Oriental Series, vol. 16 (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1939), p. 35; and Cyrus H. Gordon, *UT* §5.6. The correspondence \*d:z in UT 75 (= CTA 12) constitutes a special problem. See Joshua Blau, "On Problems of Polyphony and Archaism in Ugaritic Spelling," *JAOS* 88 (1968): 525.

2. Other examples are listed by Rainer Degen, *Altaramäische Grammatik der Inschriften des 10.–8. Jh. v. Chr.*, *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*, vol. 38/3 (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1969), §13.

3. Eduard Y. Kutscher, "Aramaic," in *Linguistics in South West Asia and North Africa*, *Current Trends in Linguistics*, vol. 6 (The Hague/Paris: Mouton, 1970), p. 353.

4. Louis D. Levine, *Two Neo-Assyrian Stelae from Iran*, Royal Ontario Museum Art and Archaeology Occasional Paper 23 (Toronto: The Royal Ontario Museum, 1972), p. 18 (col. II, l. 4).

5. Wherever possible, cuneiform evidence will be cited to Pritchard's *ANET*.

6. See the discussions by Manfred Weippert, "Menahem von Israel und seine Zeitgenossen in einer Steleninschrift des assyrischen Königs Tiglathpileser III. aus dem Iran," *ZDPV* 89 (1973): 46–47 n. 83; and Richard C. Steiner, *The Case for Fricative-Laterals in Proto-Semitic*, American Ori-

ental Series, vol. 59 (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1977), pp. 38–41. Cf. Stephen A. Kaufman, "The Enigmatic Adad-Milki," *JNES* 37 (1978): 105 with n. 20.

7. Degen, *Grammatik*, §13, Anm.; and John C. L. Gibson, *Textbook of Syrian Semitic Inscriptions*, 3 vols. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971–1982), 2:39. Cf. Blau, "'Weak' Phonetic Change and the Hebrew *šîn*," *Hebrew Annual Review* 1 (1977): 69–70 with n. 6.

8. George A. Cooke, *NSI*, pp. 170–171; Gibson, *Textbook*, 2:76; and Steiner, *Fricative-Laterals*, p. 150. See below, no. 3.

9. So Kutscher, in *Linguistics in South West Asia*, p. 354; and Paul-E. Dion, *La langue de Ya'udi* (Waterloo, Ont.: The Corporation for the Publication of Academic Studies in Religion in Canada, 1974), p. 97.

10. Dion, *La langue*, p. 97.

11. Kutscher, in *Linguistics in South West Asia*, p. 354.

12. For example, Akkadian *šāhu*, Eth. [šahaqa], BH צחק/שחק, Arab. *ḏḥk*, Chr.-Pal./Jewish Aramaic דחיק, חאך, and חיק. Cf. Steiner, *Fricative-Laterals*, pp. 111–120.

13. Felice Israel, "The Language of the Ammonites," *OLP* 10 (1979): 144.

14. The complete list is given by J. Hoftijzer, "Interpretation and Grammar," in *Aramaic Texts from Deir 'Alla*, ed. J. Hoftijzer and G. van der Kooij. Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui, vol. 19 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1976), p. 283; and Jo Ann Carlton (Hackett), "Studies in the Plaster Text from Tell Deir 'Allā" (Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1980), p. 135 (with significant differences). Cf. Joseph Naveh, "[Review of Hoftijzer and van der Kooij, eds., *Aramaic Texts*]," *IEJ* 29 (1979): 135–136; and Jonas C. Greenfield, "[Review of Hoftijzer and van der Kooij, eds., *Aramaic Texts*]," *JSS* 25 (1980): 250–251, who doubt this correspondence. Yet their only substantive counterproposal—to derive יקח (I 11) from \*lqh "to take"—does not fit the context. See Helga and Manfred Weippert, "Die 'Bileam'-Inschrift von Tell Dēr 'Allā," *ZDPV* 98 (1982): 98.

15. See Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 36, 164–165; and idem, "The Dialect of the Plaster Text from Tell Deir 'Alla," *Or* 53 (1984): 61, for the logical possibilities.

16. Harris, *Development*, p. 36; and idem, *A Grammar of the Phoenician Language*, American Oriental Series, vol. 8 (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1936), p. 20.

17. See Degen, *Grammatik*, §11, for the list.

18. Cf. Hans H. Schaeder, *Iranische Beiträge I*, Schriften der Königsberger Gelehrten Gesellschaft, Geisteswissenschaftliche Klasse, vol. 6, pt. 5 (Halle an der Saale: Max Niemeyer, 1930), pp. 242–246, esp. p. 244.

19. H. L. Ginsberg, "Psalms and Inscriptions of Petition and Acknowledgement," in *Louis Ginzberg Jubilee Volume*, 2 vols. (New York: The American Academy for Jewish Research, 1945), 1:161 n. 8; and Joseph A. Fitzmyer, *The Aramaic Inscriptions of Sefire*, *Biblica et Orientalia*, vol. 19 (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1967), p. 150.

20. See Dion, *La langue*, p. 93; and Johannes Friedrich, *PPG* §8\*a, for a complete list.

21. So, for example, D. H. Müller, "Die altsemitischen Inschriften von Sendschirli," *WZKM* 7 (1893): 115–116.

22. Friedrich, *PPG* §8\*a; and idem, "Zur Stellung des Jaudischen in der nordwestsemitischen Sprachgeschichte," in *Studies in Honor of Benno Landsberger* . . . 1965, *Assyriological Studies*, vol. 16 (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1965), p. 427.

23. N. Avigad, "Ammonite and Moabite Seals," in *Near Eastern Archaeology in the Twentieth Century*, ed. James A. Sanders (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1970), p. 288; Pierre Bordreuil, "Inscriptions sigillaires ouest-sémitiques. I. Epigraphie ammonite," *Syria* 50 (1973): 185, no. 25; and Ruth Hestrin and Michal Dayagi-Mendels, *Inscribed Seals* (Jerusalem: Israel Museum, 1979), p. 129. Israel (*OLP* 10 [1979]: 144 with n. 5) also cited the PN עזראל (Francesco Vattioni, "I sigilli ebraici," *Bibl* 50 [1969]: 377, no. 170).

There is no evidence for the merger of \**ḏ* and ד, against Garbini's claim (*Le lingue semitiche. Studi di storia linguistica* [Naples: Istituto orientale di Napoli, 1972], p. 100). The PN דבלכס is probably composed of the elements כס + דבל, as Albright has already noted ("Notes on Ammonite History," in *Miscellanea Biblica B. Ubach*, ed. R. M. Díaz, *Scripta et Documenta*, vol. 1 [Barcelona: Imprenta-Escuela, 1953], p. 134 n. 19), not of the relative \**ḏ* > ד + כ + לבס "who is in *Lbs*" suggested by Garbini. In any case, the Ammonite relative particle was אש, not ד < \**ḏ* (see Chapter 3, no. 3).

24. Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 135.

25. So, for example, Naveh, *IEJ* 29 (1979): 136. See above, Chapter 1, p. 11.

26. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 283.

27. See the new reading proposed by Kaufman, "[Review of Hoftijzer and van der Kooij, eds., *Aramaic Texts*]," *BASOR* 239 (1980): 73.

28. See, for example, the discussion of פרוזי (II 8) in Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 97–98.

29. G. R. Driver, "Seals from 'Amman and Petra," *QDAP* 11 (1944): 82.

30. Cf. Israel, "Miscellanea idumea," *Rivista biblica italiana* 27 (1979): 180.

31. Blau, "Some Difficulties in the Reconstruction of 'Proto-Hebrew' and 'Proto-Canaanite,'" in *In Memoriam Paul Kahle*, ed. Matthew Black and Georg Fohrer, *BZAW*, vol. 103 (Berlin: A. Töpelmann, 1968), p. 39. See also Franz Rosenthal, *AF*, pp. 69–70 n. 2; and Albrecht Goetze, "Accent and Vocalism in Hebrew," *JAOS* 59 (1939): 451 n. 64.

32. See Hans Kurath, *Studies in Area Linguistics* (Bloomington/London: Indiana University Press, 1972), p. 157.

33. For example, *B-L* §2g'; and Hans Bauer, *Zur Frage der Sprachmischung im Hebräischen. Eine Erwiderung* (Halle an der Saale: Max Niemeyer, 1924), pp. 31–33. Cf. Garbini, *Il semitico di nord-ovest*, *Quaderni della sezione linguistica degli Annali*, vol. 1 (Naples: Istituto universitario orientale di Napoli, 1960), pp. 32–33.

34. See the summary in Harris, *Development*, p. 40.
35. Degen, *Grammatik*, §11.
36. Pontus Leander, *Laut- und Formenlehre des Ägyptisch-Aramäischen* (1928; reprint ed., Hildesheim: Georg Olms, 1966), §2a.
37. So, tentatively, Dion, *La langue*, p. 94. Alternatively, the element צר may be cognate with Arabic [ḍarra], as in צרי "my enemies" (H 30).
38. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 283–284.
39. *Ibid.*, p. 197.
40. So Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 40, 69 with n. 33; Baruch A. Levine, "The Deir 'Alla Plaster Inscriptions," *JAOS* 101 (1981): 197; and P. Kyle McCarter, "The Balaam Texts from Deir 'Allā: The First Combination," *BASOR* 239 (1980): 51, 54.
41. Harris, *Development*, pp. 40–41.
42. *B-L* §2g'; and Bauer, *Zur Frage*, p. 33.
43. Friedrich, "Zum Phönizisch-Punischen," *ZS* 2 (1923): 2–4.
44. Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 3–4 with n. 15, 20 n. 3.
45. Ali Abou-Assaf, Pierre Bordreuil, and Alan R. Millard, *La statue de Tell Fekherye et son inscription bilingue assyro-araméenne* (Paris: Editions Recherche sur les civilisations, 1982), pp. 43–44, 60.
46. Kaufman, "Reflections on the Assyrian-Aramaic Bilingual from Tell Fakhariyeh," *Maarav* 3 (1982): 146–147.
47. Presuming, of course, that עתרסמר was not an inherited spelling of the name.
48. See the list in Dion, *La langue*, pp. 93–94.
49. Friedrich, *PPG* §8\*a; and idem, in *Studies . . . Landsberger*, p. 427.
50. Further examples are given by Israel, *OLP* 10 (1979): 144, to which add: PN בקש (seal of בקש [Hestrin and Dayagi-Mendels, *Inscribed Seals*, p. 130]) and PN שעל (seals of מתא [in *ibid.*, p. 137], פלטי [*ibid.*, p. 136], and שעל [*ibid.*, p. 135]).
51. Further examples listed by Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 136; and Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 283.
52. Cf. Israel, *Rivista biblica italiana* 27 (1979): 180.
53. E. A. Speiser, "The Shibboleth Incident (Judges 12:6)," *BASOR* 85 (1942): 10–13.
54. Harris, *Development*, pp. 40–41, 62–64, and the chronological chart.
55. Cf. p. 26 above.
56. Harris, *Development*, pp. 43–44.
57. Additional examples in Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §§79a–79b.
58. Harris, *Grammar*, p. 35. Cf. P. Swiggers, "[Review of Segert, *Grammar*]," *Lingua* 50 (1980): 383.
59. The problem, however, lies in the development of \*ā in later, post-Christian Aramaic dialects in Syria-Palestine. The shift \*ā > [ô], as found in Phoenician and Hebrew, is characteristic of western Aramaic dialects—notably western Syriac, Ma'lûla, and Christian Palestinian Aramaic. Several explanations are possible. In the early period, \*ā was retained in Aramaic-

speaking areas and only later changed to [ō] under the influence of the older Canaanite vowel-shift (through spread or borrowing) or through independent, parallel development. Another possibility is that, since the Aramaic shift \*ā > [ō] is restricted to western dialects, there was already a dialectal boundary between western (\*ā > [ō]) and eastern ([ā]) regions in the early period. Proof is lacking until further evidence can be adduced to support one explanation. See Chaim Rabin, "The Origin of the Subdivisions of Semitic," in *Hebrew and Semitic Studies Presented to Godfrey Rolles Driver*, ed. D. Winton Thomas and W. D. McHardy (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963), p. 109; and Blau, in *In Memoriam Paul Kahle*, p. 36.

60. See Benno Landsberger, *Sam'al. Studien zur Entdeckung der Ruinenstätte Karatepe*. Veröffentlichungen der türkischen historischen Gesellschaft, Series 7, no. 16 (Ankara: Türkische historische Gesellschaft, 1948), p. 22 n. 43, for complete citations.

61. See also Ran Zadok, "West Semitic Personal Names in the Murašû Documents," *BASOR* 231 (1978): 74.

62. See below, no. 6.

63. Harris, *Development*, pp. 43–45, 61–62.

64. Cf. Israel, "Un'ulteriore attestazione dell'evoluzione fonetica ā > ō nel semitico di nord-ovest," *RSF* 7 (1979): 159–161; and Ziony Zevit, *Matres Lectionis in Ancient Hebrew Epigraphs*, ASOR Monograph Series, vol. 2 (Cambridge: ASOR, 1980), p. 25 n. 44.

65. See the list in Simo Parpola, *Neo-Assyrian Toponyms*, AOAT, vol. 6 (Kevelaer/Neukirchen-Vluyn: Butzon & Bercker/Neukirchener Verlag des Erziehungsvereins, 1970), pp. 16, 76.

66. Cf. Stanislav Segert, *A Grammar of Phoenician and Punic* (Munich: C. H. Beck, 1976), §21.91.

67. Sabatino Moscati, ed., *An Introduction to the Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages*, Porta Linguarum Orientalium, New Series, vol. 6 (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1969), §8.70.

68. Zadok, "Historical and Onomastic Notes," *WO* 9 (1977): 41.

69. Blau, "Short Philological Notes on the Inscription of Meša<sup>c</sup>," *Maarav* 2 (1980): 147–148.

70. I. J. Gelb, "La lingua degli Amoriti," *Atti della Accademia nazionale dei Lincei. Rendiconti della Classe di scienze morali, storiche e filologiche*, Series VIII, vol. 13/3–4 (1958): 157 (§3.3.6.2.1).

71. Carl Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§262e.

72. Bauer, "Die hebräischen Eigennamen als sprachliche Erkenntnisquelle," *ZAW* 48 (1930): 74.

73. Harris, *Development*, p. 44.

74. Contraction is marked by a circumflex (ˆ), except in the case of [ō] < \*awa/\*aya/\*a<sup>3</sup> (cf. [ō] < \*aw). A macron (ˉ) marks originally long, or stress-lengthened, vowels.

75. Harris, *Grammar*, p. 31; idem, *Development*, p. 73; and Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §80b.

76. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §80a; cf. Harris, *Development*, pp. 56–57. For *bali*, see Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§252ba; and Rosenthal, "[Review of Gordon, *Ugaritic Grammar*]," *Or* 11 (1942): 176–177, 177 n. 2.

77. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §78d, with other examples.
78. Harris, *Grammar*, p. 31 n. 17.
79. Possible exceptions may be Pun. *anech* "I" (Poen. 995) (see Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §79c) and *corathi* "I called" (Poen. 930) (Harris, *Grammar*, p. 31 n. 17).
80. See n. 63 above.
81. References given by Frank M. Cross, "Leaves from an Epigraphist's Notebook," *CBQ* 36 (1974): 494 n. 50. Cf. idem, "Notes on the Ammonite Inscription from Tell Sirān," *BASOR* 212 (1973): 14 n. 17.
82. Cf. the Murašu PN *Padā-yaw*, cited by Cross, *CBQ* 36 (1974): 494 n. 55, and BH PNs פדהאל (Num. 34:28) and פדהצור (Num. 1:10, 2:20, etc.).
83. For a different explanation, see Cross, *BASOR* 212 (1973): 13; and Zadok, *WO* 9 (1977): 53–55.
84. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§§37fβ,γ. Cf. Gotthelf Bergsträsser, "Mitteilungen zur hebräischen Grammatik," *OLZ* 26 (1923): 255. See also the Palestinian El-Amarna forms *ru-šu-nu* "our head" (EA 264:18) and *sū-ū-nu* "sheep" (EA 263:12). The [ō]-vowel in BH יאכל "he will eat" and יאחז "he will seize," however, is of a different origin.
85. *B-L* §§25b–c. See also Harris, *Development*, p. 73, and no. 13 below.
86. Harris, *ibid.*, p. 61. Other examples are cited by Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 25, 34–35, and by Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §§78a.c (exceptions listed on p. 30 n. 1).
87. See Harris, *Development*, pp. 60–62.
88. Cf. P. Kyle McCarter and Robert B. Coote, "The Spatula Inscription from Byblos," *BASOR* 212 (1973): 20 n. 17.
89. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup>, p. 30 n. 1; Segert, *Grammar*, §§54.212.1–2; and Swiggers, *Lingua* 50 (1980): 383.
90. Ginsberg, "[Review of Harris, *Grammar*]," *JBL* 56 (1937): 139; Brockelmann, "[Review of Harris, *Grammar*]," *OLZ* 40 (1937): 528; and Harris, *Development*, p. 72.
91. See above, no. 5.
92. Harris, *Development*, p. 61 (citing only [Mō'āb]).
93. Ginsberg, *JBL* 56 (1937): 139.
94. Harris, *Grammar*, p. 37; idem, *Development*, pp. 29–32; and Frank M. Cross and David N. Freedman, *EHO*, pp. 13–19.
95. Harris, *Development*, pp. 29–30, 31.
96. Ginsberg, "The Northwest Semitic Languages," in *Patriarchs*, ed. B. Mazar, *The World History of the Jewish People*, vol. 2 ([New Brunswick, N.J.]: Rutgers University Press, 1970), p. 108; and Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 19.
97. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, pp. 14, 15.
98. See below, nos. 15, 19, and Chapter 3, nos. 23b, 23h.
99. See Degen, *Grammatik*, §7.
100. On the form of גרה "kid" (Sf. II A 2), צרה "owl" (Sf. I A 33), and אריה "lion" (Sf. II A 9), cited by Degen (*Grammatik*, §19b) as examples of monophthongization, see no. 11 below. For לילה "night" (Sf. I A 12),

see BH and Deir Alla לילה "night" (see pp. 117, 158, n. 253). The final alleged example of monophthongization in Old Aramaic, אלה "these" (Sf. I A 7.7.38, etc.), posited by Kutscher (*A History of Aramaic*, Part 1: *Old Aramaic, Jaudic, Official Aramaic [Biblical Aramaic excepted]* [Jerusalem: Akadamon, 1972], p. 12 [in Hebrew]) does not necessarily end in an original diphthong (see Chapter 3, no. 2c, especially the alternate explanation).

101. Degen, "Die Präfixkonjugationen des Altaramäischen," in *XVII. Deutscher Orientalistentag . . . Würzburg. Vorträge*, ed. Wolfgang Voigt, ZDMG Supplementa, vol. 1, pt. 2 (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1969), pp. 701–706; and idem, *Grammatik*, §19. See below, Chapter 3, no. 23d.

102. If, however, these imperfects are derived from \*yabniyu/\*yabniy, this exception disappears.

103. Fitzmyer, *Sefire*, pp. 116, 146; Degen, *Grammatik*, p. 62 n. 39a; Kutscher, *A History of Aramaic*, p. 12; and KAI 2:269–270.

104. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§252b0.

105. See, however, Klaus Beyer, "[Review of Degen, *Grammatik*]," *ZDMG* 120 (1970): 200.

106. Abou-Assaf et al., *La statue*, pp. 34, 46.

107. מִשְׁבּ "throne" (H 8.15, etc.; P 2) is a different form altogether. See Ginsberg, "The Classification of the North-West Semitic Languages," in *Akten des vierundzwanzigsten internationalen Orientalisten-Kongresses . . . 1957*, ed. Herbert Franke (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1959), p. 257; and idem, in *Patriarchs*, p. 119. See also below, Chapter 3, no. 21a.

108. See Friedrich, *PPG* §§2\*.6\*; and Dion, *La langue*, pp. 57–58, 72–80, for further examples (although with different analyses and conclusions).

109. Friedrich, *PPG* §4\*; Dion, *La langue*, pp. 72–73; and idem, "The Language Spoken in Ancient Sam'al," *JNES* 37 (1978): 116 n. 9.

110. Cf. Merton E. Sherman, "Systems of Hebrew and Aramaic Orthography: an Epigraphic History of the Use of *matres lectionis* in Non-biblical Texts to circa A.D. 135" (Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1966), p. 32 n. 61.

111. Harris, *Development*, p. 9 with nn. 14 and 15.

112. See Dion, *La langue*, pp. 122–123.

113. See below, no. 19, and Chapter 3, no. 6a.

114. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 145–148.

115. Dion, "Notes d'épigraphie ammonite," *RB* 82 (1975): 27. For the seal, see Garbini, *Le lingue*, p. 99 n. 13.

116. For the masculine plural construct ending, see Chapter 3, no. 6b.

117. Sturtevant, *Pronunciation of Greek and Latin*, pp. 142, 148, cited in Harris, *Grammar*, p. 37 n. 43.

118. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 284–285, 222 n. 104; Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 50 n. 8; and idem, *Or* 53 (1984): 63.

119. Additional examples given by Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 284–285; and by Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 137–138.

120. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 285; and Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 138.



121. See above, pp. 35, 69 n. 101.
122. See above, n. 102.
123. Cf. Rosenthal, "[Review of Cross and Freedman, *EHO*]," *JAOS* 73 (1953): 47; and Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 42.
124. See the lists in Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 43. Cf. Segert, "Die Sprache der moabitischen Königsinschrift," *ArOr* 29 (1961): 212–213.
125. On *Qōs*, see Israel, *Rivista biblica italiana* 27 (1979): 184–191.
126. *Ibid.*, p. 186.
127. B. Oded, "Egyptian References to the Edomite Deity Qaus," *AUSS* 9 (1971): 47–50.
128. Beyer, *Althebräische Grammatik* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1969), p. 29.
129. Harris, *Development*, pp. 29–32.
130. Published by N. Tzori, "A Hebrew Ostrakon from Beth-Shean," *Yediot* 25 (1961): 145–146 (in Hebrew).
131. Cf. André Lemaire, *Inscriptions hébraïques*, Tome 1: *Les ostraca*, Littératures anciennes du Proche-Orient, vol. 9/1 (Paris: Les Editions du Cerf, 1977), p. 254.
132. See above, p. 12.
133. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 48 with n. 20a. Cf. Zevit, *Matres Lectionis*, p. 15.
134. The Beer-Sheba ostraca were published by Yohanan Aharoni, "The Hebrew Inscriptions," in *Beer-Sheba I. Excavations at Tel Beer-Sheba, 1969–1971 Seasons*, ed. Y. Aharoni (Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University Institute of Archaeology, 1973), pp. 71–78. Cf. the reading by Lemaire, *Inscriptions*, pp. 271–272.
135. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 57.
136. Another possible exception is ער in a text from Tell Ajrud (published by Zeev Meshel, "Kuntilat 'Ajrud, 1975–1976," *IEJ* 27 [1977]: 53). If this is the same word as עיר "city" in Arad 24:16/17 and Lach. 4:7, 18:2, a diphthong may have contracted. In this case, however, the original diphthong was probably \*iy (Bergsträsser, *Hebräische Grammatik*, 2 vols. [Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel, 1918–1929], 1:§17i), not \*ay (cf. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 55). See also אש "man" (Shiloah 2.2.4; cf., e.g., Sf. II B 16 and H 34) vs. איש "man" (Arad 40:7.8; Lach. 3:9/10).
- On קל "voice" (Shiloah 2), see קל "voice" (Sf. I A 29; and Deir Alla I 8), and Paul Joüon, *Grammaire de l'hébreu biblique* (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1923), p. 189 n. 3.
137. See, for example, Zevit, *Matres Lectionis*, pp. 19, 24.
138. Lemaire, *Inscriptions*, p. 272.
139. For example, Shiloah 3; Lach. 2:3, etc.; Arad 1:4, etc.
140. The reading [ה]אים, accepted by *KAI* (2:200), is probably incorrect. In its stead, read אסם, following Naveh, Cross, Lemaire, and Pardee.
141. See Theodor Nöldeke, *Neue Beiträge zur semitischen Sprachwissenschaft* (Strassburg: Karl J. Trübner, 1910), pp. 133–135, for the comparative evidence.
142. For Hebrew, \*á:[á], see no. 7 above.

143. Ginsberg, "Notes on the Lachish Documents," *BJPES* 3 (1935): 79 (in Hebrew); William F. Albright, "Ostrakon C 1101 of Samaria," *PEFQS* 1936: 215 n. 1; and Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, pp. 50, 53 with n. 40.

144. Cf. Anson F. Rainey, "The Word 'Day' in Ugaritic and Hebrew," *Leshonenu* 36 (1972): 187–189 (in Hebrew); and Zevit, *Matres Lectionis*, pp. 21, 24.

145. Cf. Ginsberg, in *Patriarchs*, p. 108.

146. Or the form may be derived from \**ad-at*.

147. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §58b; *KAI* 2:5; and Albright, "The Phoenician Inscriptions of the Tenth Century B.C. from Byblus," *JAOS* 67 (1947): 157 n. 39.

148. The extent of assimilation of *nun* in final *nun* verbs is uncertain. Since כַּת "I was" is the only example of this particular assimilation in standard Phoenician during this period, additional examples are needed to ensure that this assimilation was regular. Not only is the verb "to be" generally irregular in many languages, but different verbs behaved differently in this regard (cf. BH נתַּתִּי "I gave" vs. שכַּנְתִּי "I dwelt").

149. Additional examples are given by Degen, *Grammatik*, §20; and Segert, *Altaramäische Grammatik* (Leipzig: VEB Verlag Enzyklopädie, 1975), §3.7.5.

150. Cf. Fitzmyer, *Sefire*, p. 187.

151. *Ibid.*, p. 150.

152. Degen, *Grammatik*, p. 14 n. 63.

153. See Segert, *Grammatik*, §5.7.4.1.

154. Dion, *La langue*, p. 107; and Landsberger, *Sam'al*, p. 69 n. 176 (one possibility).

155. Gibson, *Textbook* 2:62.

156. J. Halévy, "Nouvel Examen des inscriptions de Zindjirli," *RS* 7 (1899): 345.

157. Rosenthal, *Die Sprache der palmyrenischen Inschriften und ihre Stellung innerhalb des Aramäischen*, *MVÄG*, vol. 41, pt. 1 (Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1936), p. 60; Friedrich, *PPG* §19\*; and Dion, *La langue*, pp. 105, 215. See below, Chapter 3, no. 19a.

158. Israel, *Rivista biblica italiana* 27 (1979): 181 with n. 31.

159. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 292.

160. *Ibid.*, pp. 294, 300.

161. Segert, *ArOr* 29 (1961): 211.

162. Crystal-M. Bennett, "Fouilles d'Umm el-Biyara. Rapport préliminaire," *RB* 73 (1966): 399; and Israel, *Rivista biblica italiana* 27 (1979): 180.

163. Harris, *Development*, pp. 39–40.

164. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§61a.

165. Goetze, "Is Ugaritic a Canaanite Dialect?" *Lg.* 17 (1941): 129 n. 20; and Blau, "Hebrew and North West Semitic: Reflections on the Classification of the Semitic Languages," *Hebrew Annual Review* 2 (1978): 35.

166. B. Maisler (של), הכתובות הפניקיות מגבל ושלשלת התפתחותו של, *Leshonenu* 14 [1946]: 173 cited some non-

Phoenician examples of this phenomenon: see also Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup>, p. 39 n. 3. I know of no other examples of this particular assimilation in the NWS epigraphic texts.

167. See n. 148. In Ugaritic as well, *nun* did not assimilate in this position (Gordon, *UT* §9.45).

168. Comparative evidence indicates that the root was originally \**qtl* (as in Arabic, Samalian, and Sfire-Aramaic); \**qtl* became \**qtl* by assimilation of the *taw* to the emphatic *qoph*, as in Hebrew and Imperial Aramaic (see Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§54h). From the intermediate \**qtl*, the *qoph* dissimilated to *kaph* in contiguity to the following emphatic, thus: \**qtl* > \**qtl* > כטל.

169. Segert, *Grammatik*, §3.7.2.2.2.

170. Nöldeke, *Mandäische Grammatik* (1875; reprint ed., Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1964), §42.

171. Kutscher, in *Linguistics in South West Asia*, p. 365.

172. Ibid.; and Greenfield, "Dialect Traits in Early Aramaic," *Leshonenu* 32 (1968): 364 (in Hebrew).

173. Ginsberg, in *Akten . . . 1957*, p. 256; and idem, in *Patriarchs*, p. 119.

174. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 218, 283; André Caquot and André Lemaire, "Les textes araméens de Deir 'Alla," *Syria* 54 (1977): 201; Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 85, 135; and Weippert and Weippert, *ZDPV* 98 (1982): 100 n. 123.

175. Kaufman, *The Akkadian Influences on Aramaic*, Assyriological Studies, vol. 19 (Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press, 1974), p. 122.

176. Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 33–34; idem, *Development*, p. 80; and Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §§75b, 96b.

177. Additional examples are given by Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 88–90.

178. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §75b.

179. Thus, while the Akkadian spellings *Ba<sup>2</sup>-a-lulal-* may be an attempt to represent consonantal <sup>2</sup>, the form *Si-pi-it-* exhibits true anaptyxis.

180. Kutscher, *A History of Aramaic*, p. 13.

181. For \**iy* > [ê] (יֵ-) see Degen, *Grammatik*, §19b.

182. See Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§93u.

183. See Joseph L. Malone, "Wave Theory, Rule Ordering, and Hebrew-Aramaic Segolation," *JAOS* 91 (1971): 44–66, esp. pp. 59–62 (on the Hebrew phenomenon).

184. *KAI* 2:227.

185. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 60–61.

186. Arno Poebel, *Das appositionell bestimmte Pronomen der 1. Pers. Sing. in den westsemitischen Inschriften und im Alten Testament*, Assyriological Studies, vol. 3 (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1932), p. 47 n. 1 (implied derivation).

187. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 56, 104, 124.

188. So, for example, *KAI* 2:220 (one possibility).

189. Bergsträsser, *Hebräische Grammatik* 1:§23h.

190. Speiser, "Secondary Developments in Semitic Phonology: An Application of the Principle of Sonority," *AJSL* 42 (1926): 145–169; and I. M. Diakonoff, "Problems of Root Structure in Proto-Semitic," *ArOr* 38 (1970): 453–480.

191. Cf. Malone, *JAOS* 91 (1971): 66.

192. *B-L* §61me.

193. So, for example, *KAI* 2:41; and Segert, *Grammar*, §36.511.

194. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §95a.

195. See Stanley Gevirtz, "On the Etymology of the Phoenician Particle 𐤔𐤀," *JNES* 16 (1957): 125 n. 12.

196. Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 63–64; and Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §310.2. See below, Chapter 3, no. 3, and Chapter 4, no. 3a.

197. Degen, *Grammatik*, §22. See Goetze, *JAOS* 59 (1939): 444 n. 36 on the Proto-Semitic form of 𐤔𐤍(𐤀) "name."

198. Kaufman, *Maarav* 3 (1982): 162.

199. Cf. Abou-Assaf et al., *La statue*, p. 85.

200. For example, Ginsberg, "Aramaic Studies Today," *JAOS* 62 (1942): 236 with n. 34; Kaufman, *Akkadian Influences*, p. 103 n. 361; and Dion, *La langue*, p. 116.

201. Rosenthal, "[Review of Dion, *La langue*]," *JBL* 95 (1976): 154.

202. For the etymology of *sinēpū*, see Goetze, "Number Idioms in Old Babylonian," *JNES* 5 (1946): 202 n. 81; and the bibliography cited by Kaufman, *Akkadian Influences*, p. 103 n. 361.

203. While some scholars have sought a prothetic *aleph* in 𐤀𐤁𐤓𐤕 "and favor" (H 13), it is preferable to read 𐤀𐤁𐤓𐤕 "and strength" (with Joseph P. Healey, "The Archaic Aramaic Inscriptions from Zinjirli" [Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1981], p. 9). This reading not only clears up the phonetic difficulty of the prothetic *aleph* but also provides better sense.

204. See recently M. Baldacci, "The Ammonite Text from Tell Siran and North-West Semitic Philology," *VT* 31 (1981): 367.

205. Henry O. Thompson and Fawzi Zayadine, "The Tell Siran Inscription," *BASOR* 212 (1973): 10, and "The Works of Amminadab," *BA* 37 (1974): 17 (one possibility).

206. In *ibid.*

207. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 203 with n. 54.

208. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§190, Anm. 2.

209. Cf. Segert, *ArOr* 29 (1961): 219–220.

210. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§82a.

211. Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 30–31; *idem*, *Development*, pp. 42–43, 73; and Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §13a.

212. For example, André Dupont-Sommer, *Les inscriptions araméennes de Sfiré (stelés I et II)*, Extrait des Mémoires présentés par divers savants à l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, vol. 15 (Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1958), pp. 120–121; and *KAI* 2:263 (one possibility).

213. Degen, *Grammatik*, pp. 19 n. 76, 25, 66 n. 46, 71–72 n. 64; Fitzmyer, *Sefire*, pp. 91, 144 (one possibility); and Segert, *Grammatik*, §3.7.8.5.3 (one possibility).

214. Fitzmyer, *Sefire*, p. 70.
215. So Cooke, *NSI*, p. 167; *KAI* 2:219; and Dion, *La langue*, p. 213.
216. Although Dion (*La langue*, p. 120) also cited שר "head" < \*ra's in P 12, the passage is broken and does not yield clear sense.
217. Cf. Harris, *Development*, pp. 42–43.
218. *Ibid.*, p. 73 (one possibility); and Segert, *ArOr* 29 (1961): 219.
219. Harris, *Development*, p. 73 (alternate derivation). Cf. *B-L* §25b.
220. Cf. Bauer, *Zur Frage*, pp. 29–30; and idem, "[Review of Dhorme, *Langues*]," *OLZ* 36 (1933): 318.
221. So, for example, Cooke, *NSI*, p. 11.
222. Albright, "A Reëxamination of the Lachish Letters," *BASOR* 73 (1939): 21 n. 35. Cf. Gibson, *Textbook* 1:23.
223. Harris, *Development*, pp. 42, 43, 73.
224. See Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§45, for comparative evidence.
225. Albright, "Notes on Early Hebrew and Aramaic Epigraphy," *JPOS* 6 (1926): 79; Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 31–32; and Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §94.
226. In Syriac, initial *aleph* + short vowel in an unaccented, open syllable is consistently reduced to zero, as for example [hātā] "sister" < \*'ahātā and [nās] "man" < \*'unās (Nöldeke, *Kurzgefasste syrische Grammatik*, 2nd ed. [1898; reprint ed., Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1966], §32; and Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§89lo).
227. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§89lo.
228. Friedrich, *PPG* §9\*; and Segert, *Grammatik*, §3.7.8.6.1. Cf. Dion, *La langue*, p. 118; and idem, *JNES* 37 (1978): 116.
229. So Albright, "Some Comments on the 'Ammān Citadel Inscription," *BASOR* 198 (1970): 39; and A. van Selms, "Some Remarks on the 'Ammān Citadel Inscriptions," *BiOr* 32 (1975): 8.
230. So, for example, William J. Fulco, "The 'Ammān Citadel Inscription: A New Collation," *BASOR* 230 (1978): 42.
231. Cf. Harris, *Development*, pp. 78–79.
232. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§104ba; and Garbini, *Il semitico*, p. 88 n. 1.
233. Harris, *Development*, pp. 56–57; and Segert, *Grammar*, §§35.731, 54.463. Cf. Goetze, *JAOS* 59 (1939): 450 n. 62, on the vocalization.
234. So read by *KAI* 2:46; and Albright, "An Aramaean Magical Text in Hebrew from the Seventh Century B.C.," *BASOR* 76 (1939): 9–10 with n. 36.
235. So Frank M. Cross and Richard J. Saley, "Phoenician Incantations on a Plaque of the Seventh Century B.C. from Arslan Tash in Upper Syria," *BASOR* 197 (1970): 46 with nn. 29–30; and Röllig, "Die Amulette von Arslan Taş," *NESE* 2 (1974): 19, 25.
236. Abou-Assaf et al., *La statue*, p. 34.
237. See Rosenthal, *Die Sprache*, pp. 54–55. Cf. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 123–124; and idem, *JNES* 37 (1978): 116 n. 14.
238. Cf., e.g., Albright, *BASOR* 198 (1970): 38, and below, Chapter 4, no. 11.

239. For references see Naveh, "The Ostrakon from Nimrud: An Ammonite Name-List," *Maarav* 2 (1980): 167 with nn. 31–34.
240. Avigad, "Two Ammonite Seals Depicting the *Dea Nutrix*," *BASOR* 225 (1977): 64–65.
241. For this verbal form, see Chapter 3, no. 23c.
242. Nelson Glueck, "Ostraca from Elath," *BASOR* 82 (1941): 3–6; and idem, "Tell el-Kheleifeh Inscriptions," in *Near Eastern Studies in Honor of William Foxwell Albright*, ed. Hans Goedicke (Baltimore/London: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1971), p. 229.
243. See n. 162 above; and Israel, *Rivista biblica italiana* 27 (1979): 183.
244. Lemaire (*Inscriptions*, p. 50), however, found the syncopated form ב־ר in the PN ב־רִי (Sam. Ost. 58:1). Yet the reading is uncertain; Lemaire's *b* may be *p*. See Ivan T. Kaufman, "The Samaria Ostraca: A Study in Ancient Hebrew Palaeography," 2 vols. (Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1966), 1:144.
245. See above, n. 76.
246. For possible *hiphil* imperfects in Old Byblian, see below, Chapter 3, no. 16c.
247. Friedrich, "Kleinigkeiten zum Phönizischen, Punischen und Numidischen," *ZDMG* 114 (1964): 226; and Segert, *Grammatik*, §51.233.2.
248. Cross and Freedman, "The Pronominal Suffixes of the Third Person Singular in Phoenician," *JNES* 10 (1951): 228–230. See below, Chapter 3, nos. 9b, 9d, 10b–10c.
249. Thomas O. Lambdin, "The Junctural Origin of the West Semitic Definite Article," in *Near Eastern Studies . . . Albright*, p. 328.
250. Cf., however, the later form והאדמם דמת "and those people" (Eshmunazor 22).
251. Cf., for example, Dupont-Sommer, *Sfire*, pp. 120–121.
252. Degen, *Grammatik*, pp. 19 n. 79, 25, 66 n. 46; and Segert, "Zur Schrift und Orthographie der altaramäischen Stelen von Sfire," *ArOr* 32 (1964): 121.
253. So Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 29; Segert, *Grammatik*, §3.8.1.7; and recently Fitzmyer, "The Phases of the Aramaic Language," in idem, *A Wandering Aramean: Collected Aramaic Essays*, SBLMS, vol. 25 (Missoula: Scholars Press, 1979), pp. 82–83 n. 95.
254. Degen, *Grammatik*, §36 (end).
255. See below, Chapter 3, no. 10b.
256. Abou-Assaf et al., *La statue*, p. 29.
257. Friedrich, *PPG* §25\*b; *KAI* 2:219, 222; and Dion, *La langue*, pp. 121, 201.
258. Cf. Coote, "The Tell Siran Bottle Inscription," *BASOR* 240 (1980): 93; and Baldacci, *VT* 31 (1981): 367.
259. So Cross, "Epigraphic Notes on the Amman Citadel Inscription," *BASOR* 193 (1969): 19 with n. 15; and Raphael Kutscher, "A New Inscription from 'Amman," *Qadmoniot* 5 (1972): 28 (in Hebrew).
260. Cross, *BASOR* 193 (1969): 17.

261. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 293; and Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 146.

262. *B-L* §25r.

263. So read by Carlton (Hackett) ("Studies," p. 41) and Levine (*JAOS* 101 [1981]: 200). Hoftijzer (in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 174, 236) and Caquot and Lemaire (*Syria* 54 [1977]: 205) read בלִבִּי, in which case this suffix would disappear.

264. Segert, *ArOr* 29 (1961): 218; and Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §18.1.

265. Harris, *Development*, p. 55. See already Nöldeke, *Die Inschrift des Königs Mesa von Moab* (Kiel: Schweser'sche Buchhandlung, 1870), p. 32.

266. Rosenthal, *JAOS* 73 (1953): 47.

267. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, pp. 36, 43.

268. *Ibid.*, pp. 37 with n. 7, 38, 41.

269. For this derivation, see below, Chapter 3, no. 10b.

270. See the discussion in Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§§105fē, gē; and *B-L* §§25l–v.

271. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 50.

272. See Harris, *Development*, p. 55; and Zevit, *Matres Lectionis*, p. 20.

273. For example, Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§40l; and *B-L* §25l. Cf. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, pp. 47, 54–55 with n. 42.

274. Harris, *Development*, pp. 54–55; and Segert, *Grammar*, §35.61.

275. See Chapter 3, nos. 9b, 10b.

276. See Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §§234–238, for additional examples.

277. It is possible that palatalization of *he* in the suffixes influenced the same change in the causative prefix. As Speiser has shown ("The 'Elative' in West-Semitic and Akkadian," *JCS* 6 [1952]: 81–82 with n. 4; and "The Terminative-Adverbial in Canaanite-Ugaritic and Akkadian," *IEJ* 4 [1954]: 108–115), the pronominal suffixes, causative prefix, and third person independent pronouns are etymologically related. A phonetic change which occurred in one of these elements may have spread to another. In this case, however, it did not spread to the independent pronouns. Cf. Garbini, *Le lingue*, p. 70.

278. The examples which Friedrich and Röllig (*PPG*<sup>2</sup> §227) adduced to show the preservation of *\*-ât* in Old Byblian—מחנת "camp" and נחת "peace" (Ahirom 2)—are unclear. Because מחנת is derived from a final weak root, the form may have developed from *\*maḥnay-at* > *\*maḥnât* > [maḥnōt]; a simple ending *\*-at* may not be in question. Further, נחת may have ended in *\*-t* like BH *\*naḥt-*, not in *\*-ât*.

279. Degen, *Grammatik*, p. 49 n. 12.

280. Alternatively, שאת is derived from *\*ta'aw + at* (cf. Arabic) > [ta'ât]. See, however, Chapter 3, no. 7.

281. Blau, "The Parallel Development of the Feminine Ending *-at* in Semitic Languages," *HUCA* 51 (1980): 27. See *ibid.*, pp. 17–27 for a complete discussion, including Arabic evidence.

282. Ibid.
283. For the vocalization, see Charles R. Krahmalkov, "On the Third Feminine Singular of the Perfect in Phoenician-Punic," *JSS* 24 (1979): 25–28. See also n. 233 above.
284. Cf. Ugaritic *ymt* "there, thither."
285. Harris, *Development*, pp. 58–59.
286. Bergsträsser, *Hebräische Grammatik* 2:§30r.
287. See above, no. 15, and below, Chapter 3, no. 23b.
288. But cf. Blau, in *In Memoriam Paul Kahle*, pp. 37–38.
289. Idem, *Maarav* 2 (1980): 157.
290. Segert, *Grammar*, §52.42.
291. Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 36 n. 37, 61.
292. Cf. Segert, *Grammar*, §52.43; and A. M. Honeyman, "Phoenician Inscriptions from Karatepe," *Le Muséon* 61 (1948): 49 n. 10.
293. Friedrich, "Der Schwund kurzer Endvokale im Nordwestsemitischen," *ZS* 1 (1922): 10.
294. Ibid., pp. 7–10.
295. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 101–102.
296. Ginsberg, "[Review of Diringer, *Le iscrizioni*]," *ArOr* 8 (1936): 146.
297. Garbini, "Note sul 'calendario' di Gezer," *AION* 6 (1954–1956): 123–130.
298. Moscati, "Il semitico di nord-ovest," in *Studi orientalistici in onore di Giorgio Levi Della Vida*, Pubblicazioni dell'Istituto per l'Oriente, no. 52. 2 vols. (Rome: Istituto per l'Oriente, 1956), 2:217; idem, "Sulla posizione linguistica del semitico nord-occidentale," *RSO* 31 (1956): 231; and Harris, *Development*, p. 100.





# MORPHOLOGY<sup>1</sup>

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## 1a. The independent pronouns: The first person singular.

PHOENICIAN: אֲנִי (Kilamu I, etc.; Karatepe A 11, etc.). Evidence for this pronoun in Byblian appears only in later texts (e.g., Yehawmilk I; KA1 11, etc.).

ARAMAIC: אֲנִי (Zkr A 2, etc.; Sf. II C 8, etc.; Br-Rkb 1:1.20, 2:1, etc.).

SAMALIAN: אֲנִי<sup>2</sup> (H 1; P 19).

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: אֲנִי (Mesha 1.2.21, etc.).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The only form of this pronoun in the epigraphic texts is אֲנִי (Arad 88:1; Beit Lei A 1 [partially restored]<sup>3</sup>); the final [i] was transferred from the first person sing. pronominal suffix.<sup>4</sup> The other form frequently found in the Masoretic text, אֲנִי, does not appear in the epigraphic texts.

The West Semitic dialects exhibit two forms of the first person sing. independent pronoun. In Phoenician, Samalian, and Moabite,

it was אַנְךְ; cf. Akk. *anāku*. The specifically West Semitic innovation,<sup>5</sup> \**anā*, appeared in Aramaic (אנך) and Hebrew (אני); cf. Arabic and Eth. [ʾanā]. The form of the pronoun in Ammonite, Deir Alla, and Edomite is unknown.

### 1b. The second person masculine singular.

PHOENICIAN: אַת\* [ʾattā], attested only in the later Phoenician inscriptions (KAI 13:3; Eshmunazor 4.20).

ARAMAIC: אַת, as in Sf. III 11.20 and Nerab 1:5, 2:8. It is unclear, however, whether the pronoun was pronounced [ʾatt], without a final vowel, or [ʾatta], with a final short vowel.<sup>6</sup>

SAMALIAN: אַת (H 33). As in Old Aramaic, the Samalian pronoun was pronounced either [ʾatt] or [ʾatta].<sup>7</sup> Cf. the doublet זנה 'this' (P 22) and זן 'this' (H 1.14.16; P 1.20), where the final vowel was not represented in the orthography of the second form.<sup>8</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: אַתָּה, in Beit Lei B, according to Naveh's reading.<sup>9</sup> Whether this form does or does not appear in the epigraphic texts, however, is practically irrelevant, since the Masoretic *q're* consistently shows [ʾattā]. אַתָּה, then, was the Hebraic form of the second person masc. sing. independent pronoun.

The second person masc. sing. independent pronoun is derived from \**antā*.<sup>10</sup> In Phoenician and Hebrew, the pronoun was [ʾattā] < \**antā*. The Samalian and Aramaic form, however, was either [ʾatta], or [ʾatt], like the later Aramaic dialects. In either case, the alternate base \**antā* appeared in Samalian and Old Aramaic. Both the Phoenician-Hebrew and Aramaic-Samalian pronouns were inherited.

### 1c. The third person masculine singular.

BYBLIAN: One pronoun was הוּא (Ahirom 2), pronounced [huʾa] and later, presumably, [hūʾ)]. A second form of the pronoun, הוּאָת, also appears in Ychimilk 2.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN:  $\text{הא}^*$  [hū<sup>(?)</sup>],<sup>11</sup> as inferred from the later Phoenician texts.

ARAMAIC:  $\text{הא}$  [hū<sup>(?)</sup>] (Sf. I A 37, etc.; Br-Rkb 1:17, etc.).

Although Dupont-Sommer<sup>12</sup> has argued for a second form of this pronoun,  $\text{הו}$ , in Sf. III 22  $\text{והו יחלפה}$  "and he will replace him," Milik<sup>13</sup> and others<sup>14</sup> suggested a more plausible word-division  $\text{והי חלפה}$  "and be his successor." The only form of the third person masc. sing. independent pronoun in Old Aramaic was  $\text{הא}$ .

SAMALIAN:  $\text{הא}$  (H 22.30; P 11.22). The pronunciation of this form is uncertain.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA:  $\text{הא}$  (I 1).<sup>15</sup> It is possible, however, that this word is the interjection "behold" [hā<sup>2</sup>].<sup>16</sup>

MOABITE:  $\text{הא}$  (Mesha 6). The pronunciation was either [hū<sup>(?)</sup>] or [hu<sup>3</sup>a (?)].

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW:  $\text{הא}$  (Arad 40:12). The *aleph* had probably lost its consonantal value, so that the pronoun was pronounced [hū], as in biblical Hebrew.<sup>17</sup>

The form  $\text{אה}$  is common to all first-millennium dialects which exhibit this pronoun. The dialects were differentiated according to its phonetic variants. Only Old Byblian had [hu<sup>3</sup>a], since final short vowels were probably not yet lost in this dialect;<sup>18</sup> in the other dialects, the form was [hū<sup>3</sup>]. In the course of the first millennium, the final *aleph* was lost as well.

Whereas the common form of this pronoun was  $\text{הא}$ , Old Byblian alone preserved a second pronoun  $\text{האת}$ ; cf. ESA and perhaps Eth.<sup>19</sup> This form is parallel to the third person plural independent pronoun  $\text{המת}$  "they" in standard Phoenician.<sup>20</sup> Perhaps the preservation of this pronoun was a Phoenician trait.

## 1d. The third person masculine plural.

PHOENICIAN (including Byblian?):  $\text{המת}$  (Kilamu 13; cf. Karatepe A I 17).<sup>21</sup> That this pronoun was not restricted to the northern Phoenician periphery is proven by its appearance in later Cyprian (KAI 43:5 [fem. plural]) and Sidonian dialects (Eshmunazor 11.22 [both demonstrative]).

ARAMAIC: הַם (Sf. I B 6) and הוּ[ה] (Zkr A 9). There is no apparent semantic or syntactic difference between these two forms. The short form of this pronoun was not productive in the later Aramaic dialects.

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: הֵם\* [hēm], as inferred from the biblical texts. BH also had the form הֵמָּה, cognate with Phoenician הַמַּת. Neither form is found in the epigraphic Hebrew texts.

As in other Semitic languages, these dialects exhibit several forms of the third person masculine plural independent pronoun. Phoenician (regularly?) used הַמַּת as its subjective pronoun; cf. also BH הֵמָּה and ESA *hmt*.<sup>22</sup> A short form, הֵם, appeared (presumably) in epigraphic Hebrew; in Old Aramaic, the independent pronoun was restricted to the dialect of Sfire. The other form, הוּ[ה], is found in Zkr as well as in the later Aramaic dialects; cf. Arabic and ESA.

## 2a. The demonstrative pronouns:

“This” (masc. sing.).

BYBLIAN: הוּ (Ahirom 2; Ahirom Graff. 3).<sup>23</sup> Later Byblian had both הוּ (Yehawmilk 4.5.12, etc.) and הוּ (Yehawmilk 4.5.10, etc.).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: הוּ [(?) (Kilamu 14.15; Karatepe A III 14.15.18).

ARAMAIC: הַמַּת (Zkr A 17, etc.; Br-Rkb 1:20; Sf. I A 36, etc.; Adon 8<sup>24</sup>).

SAMALIAN: הוּ (H 1.14.16; P 1.20) and הַמַּת (P 22). These two forms of the pronoun probably reflect different spellings of the same demonstrative [ḏinā, zinā];<sup>25</sup> cf. the spellings of the relative particle as הוּ (H 1) and הוּ (מ) (H 3.4.22).

AMMONITE: No evidence. van Selms,<sup>26</sup> however, believed to have uncovered the masc. sing. demonstrative in הוּ (Cit. 1), comparable to Arabic [ḏālīka] “this.” Yet as most scholars have recognized,<sup>27</sup> it is preferable to understand this form as the dative preposition -וּ “to, for” + second person masc. sing. suffix “you.” Not only does this interpretation fit the context better than the de-

monstrative, but a specifically Arabic etymology need not be invoked.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW:  $\pi\text{ז}$  [ze] (Arad 13:2; el-Qom 1:3; Yavneh-Yam 1:9; Shiloah 1, etc). It is also possible that this demonstrative is attested in Hazor 3,<sup>28</sup> if the reading  $\pi\{\text{ז}\}\text{ב}\text{ח}$  "this house/bath" is correct.

Two forms of the masc. sing. demonstrative pronoun "this" appear in the first-millennium NWS dialects. The "short" form,  $*q + \text{vowel}$ , is attested only in standard Phoenician and Hebrew. A longer form, with *nun* as the second consonant, appears in Old Byblian, Old Aramaic, and Samalian. In later Byblian, however, the "short" form competed with the older  $\pi$ .

It is difficult to decide the extent to which shared innovation accounts for this distribution. The Semitic languages show demonstrative pronouns derived from  $*q-$  and from  $*q-n$ ,<sup>29</sup> so that both bases may be reconstructed for Proto-Semitic. In NWS, however,  $*q$  appears to be restricted to the Canaanite group.

## 2b. "This" (fem. sing.).

BYBLIAN:  $\kappa\text{t}^*$ , as inferred from later Byblian inscriptions (Yehawmilk 6.12).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN:  $\text{t}$  (Karatepe A II 9.17, III 15).

ARAMAIC:  $\kappa\text{t}$  (Sf. I A 35.37, III 9) and  $\text{תא}\text{t}$  (Fekh. 15).<sup>30</sup>

SAMALIAN:  $\kappa\text{t}$  (H 18).

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE:  $\text{תא}\text{t}$  (Mesha 3).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW:  $\text{תא}\text{t}$  (Silwan B 1.3; Lach. 6:10; Arad 40:14/15 [partially restored]).

All forms of the fem. sing. demonstrative pronoun are derived from  $*qā$ .<sup>31</sup> This form was preserved in standard Phoenician. In Byblian (?), Old Aramaic (excluding Fekh.), and Samalian, a secondary, syllable-closing *aleph* appeared on the pronoun.<sup>32</sup> In ad-

dition to this syllable-closing *aleph*, a final *-t* also appeared in the Moabite, Hebrew, and Fekh.-Aramaic demonstrative; cf. Ethiopic.<sup>33</sup> Because of this distribution, the *t*-forms may have been common inheritances<sup>34</sup> or parallel, independent developments.

## 2c. "These" (common plural).

BYBLIAN: אַל (Yehimilk 3).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: אַל\*, as inferred from the later Phoenician texts (Eshmunazor 22; CIS I 14.5, etc.).

Rosenthal<sup>35</sup> and Caquot<sup>36</sup> have suggested that this demonstrative appears in Arsl. T. 1:3; the former read אַל, the latter אלו. Yet the reading and context of the passage in question are too unclear to provide any certain evidence of this demonstrative.

ARAMAIC: אַל (Zkr A 9.16, B 8) and אַלן (Sf. I A 7.7.38, etc.). The second form, with final *nun*, arose on analogy with the singular זנ: the *nun* of the singular form was transferred to the plural.<sup>37</sup> Cf. biblical Aramaic דַּךְ "that" (sing.) and אַלךְ "those" (plural). Alternatively, the *nun* was borrowed from the nominal plural morpheme ׀.

SAMALIAN: אַל (H 29).

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: Evidence uncertain. Hoftijzer<sup>38</sup> and Caquot and Lemaire<sup>39</sup> identified אַל (I 2) as the demonstrative plural, whereas Hackett<sup>40</sup> and others<sup>41</sup> interpreted it as the divine name "El." It is not possible to decide between these alternatives at present.<sup>42</sup>

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: No evidence from the epigraphic texts. In BH, this demonstrative is אַל.

All first-millennium NWS dialects exhibit a demonstrative plural pronoun derived from \**i/ull*.<sup>43</sup> Whereas nearly all dialects had the same consonantal formation of the demonstrative, the vocalization differed slightly from dialect to dialect. The later Punic transcription, *ily* "these" (Poen. 938), suggests that the Phoenician demonstrative was pronounced approximately [ʔillē]. This final vowel, however, was not an innovation shared exclusively by Phoenician and Hebrew; it also appears in Arabic and later Aramaic dialects.<sup>44</sup>

Yet in terms of first-millennium NWS dialect grouping, Phoenician and BH share one form, and Aramaic-Samalian another.

The major deviation, or innovation, away from the common NWS 𐤀 was the addition of a final *nun* in Sfire-Aramaic, on analogy with either the final *nun* of the masculine singular demonstrative or the nominal plural morpheme 𐤍. This particular analogy was unique to Old Aramaic, among the first-millennium NWS dialects.<sup>45</sup>

### 3. The relative pronoun/particle.

BYBLIAN: 𐤀 [zu, zi (?)] (Ahirom 1; Yehimilk 1; Elibaal 1; Ship-tibaal 1). In later Byblian, 𐤀 died out, and another relative, 𐤁𐤀, appeared (Yehawmilk 2, etc.; KAI 11).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: 𐤁𐤀 (Kilamu 15; Karatepe A I 15.19, etc.; Arsl.T. I:16, 2:4).

ARAMAIC: 𐤁 [dī] (Zkr A I.16, etc.; Br-Hdd I.4; Sf. I A 5.7, etc.; Fekh. I.5, etc.).<sup>46</sup> In Halaf Ost. I Obv. 5, the relative was written defectively as 𐤁,<sup>47</sup> like the construction 𐤁𐤍 "my, mine" in the Assur Ost. 13.<sup>48</sup>

SAMALIAN: 𐤁 [dī, zī] (H 1), written defectively in the construction 𐤁𐤍 "whatever" (H 3.4.22)<sup>49</sup> and in Kilamu Scepter I 𐤁.<sup>50</sup>

AMMONITE: 𐤁𐤀 (Hesh. Ost. 4:6).<sup>51</sup>

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

Although Hackett<sup>52</sup> found the Deir Alla relative in 𐤁𐤀 (I 1), the context and syntax of the passage suggest the meaning "man."<sup>53</sup> A relative particle 𐤁<sup>54</sup> is also uncertain; in Clay Text I it is probably Aramaic,<sup>55</sup> and in fragment Vf 3 the reading is too uncertain.

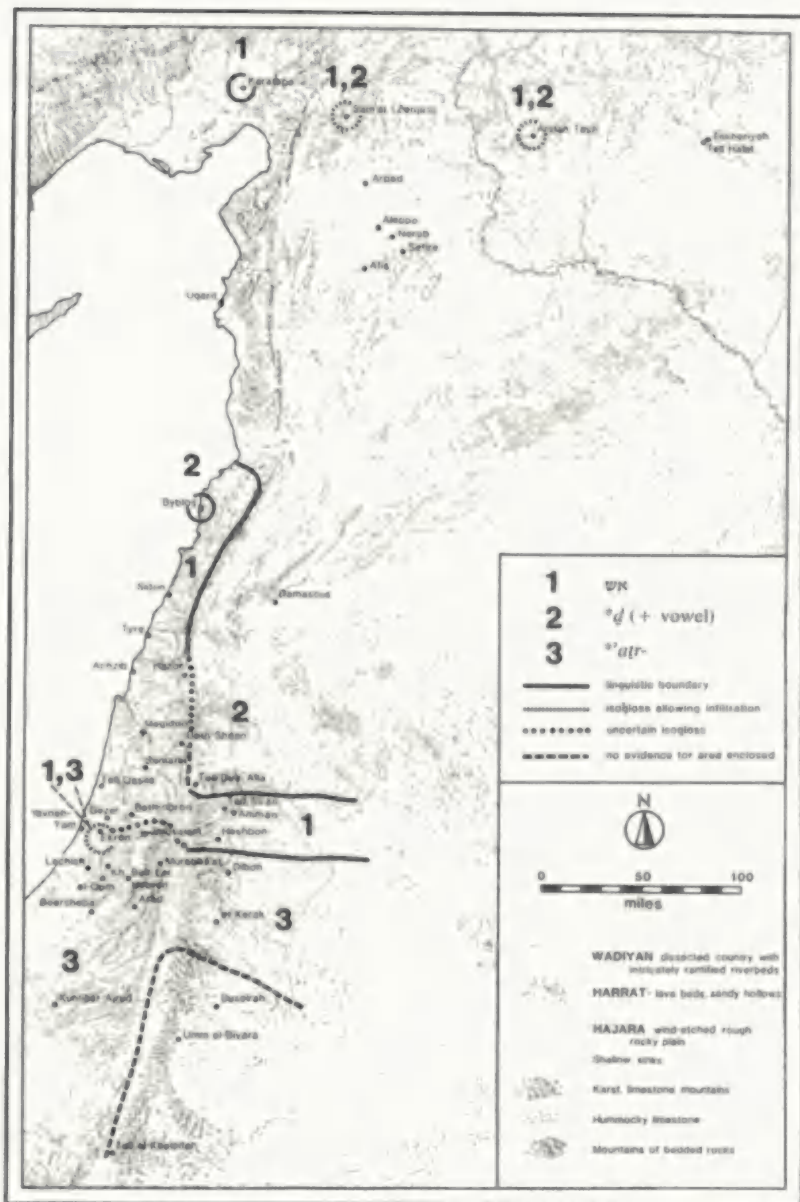
MOABITE: 𐤁𐤀𐤍 (Mesha 29).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: 𐤁𐤀𐤍 (Lach. 3:5; Arad 40:5, etc.; Mur 17 A 2; Silwan B I.2; etc.).<sup>56</sup> There is no direct evidence of a relative -𐤁 in the epigraphic texts.

The relative particle of the first-millennium NWS dialects was formed from three different roots. Byblian Phoenician, Old Aramaic, and Samalian formed the relative from \**q*. Standard Phoenician and Ammonite formed a group which used \**l* as the base for the relative particle. And Moabite and Hebrew used a (construct?) form of the noun \**ʾatru* "place" as the relative; cf., possibly, *ašar* in EA<sup>56</sup> and \**ʾatr* once in Ugaritic.<sup>57</sup> Whereas \**q*<sup>58</sup> and \**l*<sup>59</sup> are Proto-Semitic





MAP 4: The relative particle/pronoun.

relative particles, Moabite and Hebrew jointly recycled the old noun "place" in this new manner. This use of \**atru* "place," then, was an innovation shared exclusively by Moabite and Hebrew among the first-millennium NWS dialects.

#### 4. The personal, interrogative pronoun.

PHOENICIAN: מי [miya, mī] (Kilamu 11.12.13.15). Cf. EA *mi-ya* "who" (EA 85:63, 94:12, 116:67).<sup>60</sup>

ARAMAIC: מן [man] (Zkr B 21, etc.; Sf. II B 9, etc.; Fekh. 10.16).

SAMALIAN: מן [man (?)] (H 15).

AMMONITE: מ [mī], in the PN מכמאל [Mī-kamō-ʿēl] (seal<sup>61</sup>).<sup>62</sup>

DEIR ALLA: מן [man (?)] (II 12), if the line is to be read בלכב.מן.<sup>63</sup> If, however, the line is read בלכבם.נאנח,<sup>64</sup> the pronoun מן disappears.<sup>65</sup>

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: מי [mī] (Lach. 2:3, 5:3, 6:2, 7:2 [partially restored], 9:2 [partially restored]).

The NWS dialects employed two personal, interrogative pronouns. Old Aramaic, Samalian, and possibly Deir Alla used the common Semitic pronoun \**man*.<sup>66</sup> Phoenician, Ammonite, and Hebrew, however, jointly innovated by using a new form \**miya*.<sup>67</sup> These latter three dialects, then, constituted a single dialectal group not only within NWS but also within the other Semitic languages as well.

#### 5. The form of the definite article.

PHOENICIAN: -ה (e.g., הבתם "the houses" [Yehimilk 2],<sup>68</sup> הקרת "the city" [Karatepe A II 9.17, etc.], המלכם "the kings" [Kilamu 9/10], and הנסך "the weaver" [Achzib]<sup>69</sup>). The definite article was followed by consonantal gemination, as inferred from the late Punic forms עממקם [ammaqōm] "the places" (KAI 173:5) < \**ha(m) + maqōm*<sup>70</sup> and possibly הגגפם [haggāpīm] "the fences" (CIS I 340) < \**ha(g) + gāpīm*.<sup>71</sup>

ARAMAIC: א- [āʾ] (e.g., נצבא "the stele" [Br-Hdd 1; Zkr A 1, etc.], ארקא "the land" [Br-Rkb 1:4; Adon 2], דמותא "the image" [Fekh. 1.15], etc.).

Two exceptions to the designation of the definite article by post-positive *aleph* have been adduced, both involving the use of post-

positive *he*. The first is מלכה (Hama 7 A 923 + 7 A 538), which Garbini<sup>72</sup> and Donner and Röllig<sup>73</sup> interpreted as "the king." Yet, as Degen<sup>74</sup> has suggested, מלכה should be interpreted either as "his king" or "queen"; the final *he* was not the definite article.

The other exception is the form אחרה (Nerab 1:13), which Cooke<sup>75</sup> interpreted as "another," comparable to later Aramaic אחרת; the final *he* would represent the usual postpositive *aleph* of the definite article. Yet the form is better interpreted as אחר + adverbial [ā], in the sense of "in the future";<sup>76</sup> cf. לאחר "in the future" (Nerab 2:8), with pleonastic *lamedh*. This interpretation better fits both the context and syntax of the inscription. The only definite article in Old Aramaic, then, was postpositive א- [ā<sup>3</sup>].

SAMALIAN: There is no evidence of a written definite article in Samalian;<sup>77</sup> all examples of a suffixed *aleph* corresponding to a definite article are uncertain.<sup>78</sup> Yet it is impossible to verify Schaefer's<sup>79</sup> thesis that Samalian had a suffixed definite article [ā] which was never present in the orthography. Until a written form of the definite article appears, it is preferable to follow the majority of scholars and to deny the existence of the definite article in this dialect.

AMMONITE: ה-, as in הכרם "the vineyard" (Sir. 4) and הגנת "the garden" (Sir. 4).

DEIR ALLA: There is no certain evidence of a definite article in these texts.<sup>80</sup> Hoftijzer<sup>81</sup> suggested that it was א-, based on the reading רבשכמתא.אל "and in these mountainous regions (?)" in I 2. Caquot and Lemaire,<sup>82</sup> as well as McCarter,<sup>83</sup> agreed that the definite article in Deir Alla was א-, but they read I 2 as במל[ן].א.אל "according to these words." Yet Hackett's<sup>84</sup> reading במשא.אל "like an oracle of El" is also plausible. In that case, the final *aleph* was a root letter. McCarter<sup>85</sup> further cited זי שרעא "of the gatekeeper" (Clay Text 1) and אבן שרעא "the gatekeeper's stone" (Clay Text 2) as proof of a suffixed definite article א- in the Deir Alla spoken dialect. Yet in addition to the uncertainty of equating the dialect of the Clay Texts with that of the plaster texts, שרעא may be a personal name ending in the hypocoristic [ō].<sup>86</sup> Finally, the suggested definite article in אחראה "in the future (?)" (I 2)<sup>87</sup> is grammatically difficult.<sup>88</sup>

MOABITE: ה-, as in הארץ "the land" (Mesha 29.31), הקר "the city" (Mesha 12.24.24), and היערן "the forests" (Mesha 21).<sup>89</sup>

EDOMITE: ה-, as in המלך "the king" (Bus. 386;<sup>90</sup> seal of קוסענל<sup>91</sup>).<sup>92</sup>

HEBREW: -ה, as in הנקבה "the tunnel" (Shiloah 1), הצבא "the army" (Lach. 3:14), and היום "the day, today" (Arad 1:4, 24:19). Presumably the definite article in epigraphic Hebrew was pronounced like its Masoretic counterpart, [ha] + gemination of the following consonant.

The definite article is a morphological innovation which appeared during the early first millennium B.C.E.<sup>93</sup> It did not develop in Samalian. In the other dialects, however, it appeared either as a prefixed *he* (+ gemination of the following consonant) or a suffixed [āʾ]. The article *he* is found in Phoenician dialects, Ammonite, Moabite, Edomite, and in Hebrew. [āʾ] is found only in Old Aramaic. The form of the definite article in the Deir Alla dialect is still unknown.

## 6a. The noun: The ending of the absolute dual and masculine plural.

PHOENICIAN: -ם, as in מלכם "kings" (Ahirom 2; Kilamu 5.6, etc.), מקמם "places" (Karatepe A 1 14.17, II 3), and שמים "Heaven" (Yehimilk 3; Karatepe A III 18). In the Arslan Tash dialect, however, the ending was -ן, as in קדשן "Holy Ones" (Arsl.T. 1:12) and ללן "night demons" (I:20);<sup>94</sup> the cultic terms בן אלם "divinities" (Arsl.T. 1:11) and שמים "Heaven" (Arsl.T. 1:13) are borrowed, or inherited, religious vocabulary and do not reflect local speech patterns.<sup>95</sup>

ARAMAIC: -ן, as in מלכן "kings" (Zkr A 5; Br-Rkb 1:10.13, etc.), אלהן "gods" (Zkr B 9; Sf. I A 30, etc.; Fekh. 14.4), and שמן "heaven" (Sf. I A 26, etc.; Fekh. 2; Adon 3; Zkr B 25 [partially restored]).

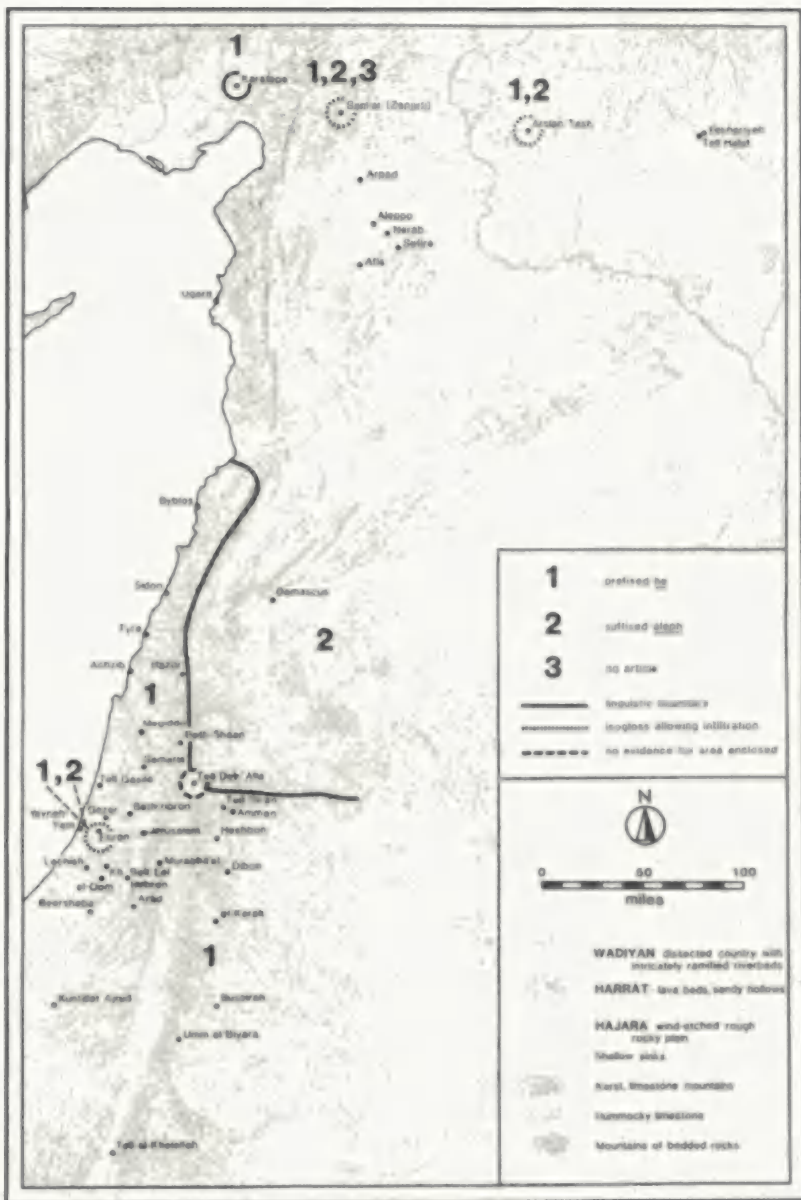
SAMALIAN: The ending of the nominative masc. plural was -[ū], and the oblique was -[ī].<sup>96</sup> The ending of the oblique dual was -י also, as in בלגרי "at the feet" (P 16) and ידיה "his hands" (H 29); in both cases, however, the nouns are bound, not absolute.

AMMONITE: -ם, as in אלם "gods" (Cit. 6) and the later form חבלם "ropes" (Hesh. Ost. 11:4); cf. רבם "great" (masc. plural) (Sir. 7).<sup>97</sup>

DEIR ALLA: -ן, as in אלהן "gods" (I 1.1.5, etc.), חכמן "wise men" (I 11), and שמן "heaven" (I 6).

MOABITE: -ן, as in ימן "days" (Mesha 5), שלשן "30" (Mesha 2), and מאתן "200" (Mesha 20).

EDOMITE: No evidence.



MAP 5: The definite article.

HEBREW: חמרים "asses" (Arad 3:5), חצבים "hewers" (Shiloah 4), שנים "2" (Arad 7:7), and מאתים "200" (Shiloah 5).

Like all Semitic languages, the absolute dual and masculine plural end in a long vowel, long vowel + *n*, or long vowel + *m*.<sup>98</sup> As in Akkadian masc. plural nouns, Samalian forms terminated in a simple long vowel. Nunation was added in Aramaic, Deir Alla, Moabite, and the Phoenician dialect of Arslan Tash; the origin of this *-n* is uncertain. And in Phoenician dialects (except at Arslan Tash), Ammonite, and Hebrew, these nominal forms ended in *-m*; this *-m* was transferred from the mimation of singular nouns. In view of the Akkadian and Samalian evidence, both mimation and nunation may have been secondary developments.<sup>99</sup>

## 6b. The ending of the masculine plural construct.

PHOENICIAN:  $\text{-}\text{ḥ}$  [ê], as for example בן גבל "the gods of Byblos" (Yehimilk 4.7), פן.ש. "the face of a sheep" (Kilamu 11), and בן אלם "divinities" (Arsl.T. 1:11). For the ending [ê], see the Greek transcriptions ΦΑΝΕ ΒΑΑ "Face of Baal" (KAI 175:2) and ΦΕΝΗ ΒΑΑ "Face of Baal" (KAI 176:2/3).<sup>100</sup>

ARAMAIC:  $\text{-}$  [ay], as for example בתי [bâtay] "the houses of" (Zkr B 9; Sf. II C 2/3, etc.) and ערי ['a/eday] "the treaty of" (Sf. I A 1, etc.), etc.

SAMALIAN: There was no special form for the masc. plural construct noun.<sup>101</sup> The ending was either [û] or [i], depending upon the syntax of the *nomen regens*: when the noun was the grammatical subject, it ended in [û], and when it was the object or followed a preposition, it ended in [i].<sup>102</sup>

AMMONITE:  $\text{-}\text{ḥ}$  [(?)], as in בן "the sons of" (Sir. 1.2.3; Theater 2 [?]). The vocalization of this ending, however, is uncertain. Either it was \*[ê] < \*ay, as in Phoenician and (northern) Hebrew, or \*[i].<sup>103</sup> Since the masculine plural construct may have originally been \*-î in NWS,<sup>104</sup> it is unknown whether the original \*-î was retained in Ammonite or was replaced by the dual construct \*-ay (as in Phoenician, Hebrew, and Aramaic).

DEIR ALLA:  $\text{-}$  [ay], as in אפרחי.אנפה "chicks of the heron" (I 8) and בני.אש "men" (II 8); cf. משכבי.עלמך "your eternal bed" (II 11).

MOABITE:  $\text{-}$  [ê (?)], as in אסרי "prisoners of" (Mesha 25/26), ימי "the days of" (Mesha 8), and לפני "before" (Mesha 13.18); cf. שעריה



“its gates” (Mesha 22), in which the *yodh* suggests the reflex of an original diphthong *\*ay*.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The evidence comes only from the southern dialect, where the masc. plural construct ended in *־* [ay], as for example בני “the sons of” (Arad 16:5, 49:1.2, etc.), ספרי “the letters of” (Lach. 6:4), and דברי “the matters of” (Lach. 6:5). Since diphthongs did not contract in the southern Hebrew dialect,<sup>105</sup> it is probable that the masc. plural construct ending *\*ay* did not contract either. There is no reason, then, to accept the conclusion of Dion<sup>106</sup> that this ending *־* was pronounced [ê], as in Phoenician, Ammonite, and Moabite. In northern Hebrew, however, this morpheme would have been pronounced *\*[ê]*.

The masc. plural construct ending is an innovation within NWS. In Samalian, the morpheme had not yet developed; the nominal ending depended upon the syntax of the noun itself and not on its relation to its following modifier. An old ending *\*-î* may have appeared in Ammonite, but the evidence is uncertain. The common NWS masc. plural ending *\*-ay*, however, is found in Phoenician, Aramaic, Deir Alla, Moabite, Hebrew, and possibly in Ammonite. This morphological innovation, then, was shared by most, if not all, NWS dialects in Syria-Palestine proper.

## 6c. The ending of the absolute feminine singular.

BYBLIAN: ת- [ôt], as in מחנת [maḥnôt] “camp” (Ahirom 2), and [t], as in נחת [naḥt (?)] “peace” (Ahirom 2).<sup>107</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: ת- [ôt]<sup>108</sup> (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 18a). In later Phoenician, “year” appears as שת < *\*šan-t* (KAI 19:5, 52:4, 60:1, etc.).

ARAMAIC: ה- [ā] (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 18a). Other endings included [ât] (as in מרמת [marmât] “rebellion” [Sf. III 22]) and possibly [t] (as in שאת [šaʾt (?)] “ewe” [Sf. I A 21]).

SAMALIAN: ה- [ā] (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 18a). A fem. sing. abstract form in ו- [û] also appeared in this dialect (e.g., בברו “greatness” [H 11] and אברו “strength” [H 15.21]).<sup>109</sup>

AMMONITE: ת- [at (?)] (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 18a).

DEIR ALLA: ת- [ā] (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 18a).



MOABITE: ת-. The ending was vocalized [t] in שַׁת [šat(t)] “year” (Mesha 2.8) < \*šant, and perhaps in מַשְׁמַעַת [ma/išmaʿt] “subjects” (Mesha 28); cf. BH מַשְׁמַעַת. The ending was vocalized [āt̪] in הַמַּסְלָה [ham-masillāt̪] “the highway” (Mesha 26) and [it̪] in שַׁחֲרִית [šahrīt̪] “morning” (Mesha 15). Three pronunciations [t], [āt̪], and [it̪], then, are concealed behind one consonantal ending ת-.<sup>110</sup>

EDOMITE: No evidence.<sup>111</sup>

HEBREW: ת- [ā] (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 18a). Other abs. fem. sing. endings included ת-, vocalized [t] (as in שַׁת [šat(t)] “year” [Sam. Ost., passim] < \*šan-t; cf. BH \*šan-at) and [it̪] (as in הָעֲשִׂירִית [hā-ʿsīrīt̪] “the tenth” [Sam. Ost. 1:1, etc.] and רְבַעַת [r̪bīʿit̪] “fourth” (Lach. 29)), and a form in תי- [it̪ (?), iyyāt̪] (בְּתִשְׁעִית “on the ninth” [Lach. 20:1]).

The basic form of the abs. fem. sing. noun ended in \*-āt in all first-millennium NWS dialects. This \*-āt was preserved, with different pronunciations, in Phoenician dialects, Ammonite, and Moabite; in Aramaic, Samalian, the Deir Alla dialect, and Hebrew, \*-āt changed to [ā] in this nominal form. This distribution of the correspondence \*-āt:[ā] does not indicate the geographical (or dialectal) source of this innovation. Indeed, the appearance of \*-āt:[ā] in several Semitic languages suggests that it occurred independently in NWS.<sup>112</sup>

Other feminine singular endings varied from dialect to dialect. Samalian alone preserved the abstract ending [ū], which is also found in later Aramaic dialects. A feminine ת- is found in Old Byblian נִנְחָה, in (northern?) Hebrew, Moabite, and later Phoenician שַׁת, and possibly in Old Aramaic שַׁת; the simple addition of [t] to a \*CaC base may have been a northern, Syro-Palestinian linguistic feature. Finally, Hebrew and Moabite shared the ending [it̪], while Hebrew may have contained a ballast form of this ending under the guise of תי-.

#### 6d. The ending of the absolute feminine plural.

PHOENICIAN: ת- [ōt̪] < \*āt, as in שָׁנֹת [šanōt̪] “years” (Karatepe A III 6) and חֲמִית [ḥōmiy(y)ōt̪] “walls” (Karatepe A I 13.17). For the vocalization, see *alonuth* “goddesses” (Poen. 930),<sup>113</sup> where *-uth* represents the Phoenician ending [ōt̪] < \*āt.

ARAMAIC: There were two abs. fem. plural endings in Old Aramaic. One was *-t* [āt], as in לחית [lahyāt] "evil" (Sf. I C 20, III 2). The other was *-n* [ān], as for example שאן "ewes" (Sf. I A 23), מדי[נן] "wetnurses" (Sf. I A 21), and מעינן "wells" (Sf. I A 12); cf. סאן "ewes" (Fekh. 20) and נשון "women" (Fekh. 21.22).<sup>114</sup> In Sfire, the two endings may have marked a distinction between feminine plural adjectives ([āt]) and nouns ([ān]).<sup>115</sup>

The ending in [ān] was a secondary innovation in Aramaic, formed on analogy with the abs. masc. plural ending [in].<sup>116</sup> The analogy followed a proportional model:

[tāb] "good" (masc. sing.) : [tāb-i-n] "good" (masc. pl.)  
[tābā] "good" (fem. sing.) : \*tāb-ā- "good" (fem. pl.)

The final *nun* became the sign of plurality and was transferred from the abs. masc. plural to the abs. fem. plural. The form, therefore, became [tābān] and replaced the older [tābāt].

SAMALIAN: *-t* [āt], as in קירת [qīrāt] "cities" (H 10; P 4), קתילת [qatīlāt] "killed (women)" (P 8), and חרבת "wasted (cities)" (P 4).

AMMONITE: *-t* [ōt], as in מבאת "entrances" (Cit. 1) and יומת "days" (Sir. 7).

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

While Hoftijzer<sup>117</sup> believed he isolated three examples of the abs. fem. plural, each example is dubious. The alleged fem. plural *-t* in ת. אחירור [ ] (I 5) is to be read [ ].<sup>118</sup> The plural form, ארנבן "hares" (I 9), is not the feminine plural of ארנבה\* but the masculine plural of sing. ארנב (cf. Old Aramaic, Arabic, and Akkadian).<sup>119</sup> Finally, the form קקן "constraint" (I 14) does not conceal an abs. fem. plural; the *nun* is probably a nominal suffix \*ān attached to the middle weak root \*dqwq.<sup>120</sup> There are, then, no certain examples of the abs. fem. plural in the Deir Alla texts.

MOABITE: *-t* [(?)], as in גברת "women" (Mesha 16) and רחמת "children" (Mesha 17).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: *-t* [ōt], as in האגנת "the basins" (Arad 1:10) and אמת "cubits" (Shiloah 2).

All the first-millennium NWS dialects exhibit final *-t* for the singular of the abs. fem. plural. The old form, [āt], as in Akkadian and Arabic, was preserved in Old Aramaic and Samalian; those dialects which had the systematic correspondence \*ā: [ō] had the ending [ōt]—i.e. Phoenician dialects, Ammonite, and Hebrew.

The only deviation from the use of final *taw* as the sign of the abs. fem. plural was in Old Aramaic. There, the *nun* of the abs. masc. plural was transferred to the abs. fem. plural. The Sfire texts document this change from [āt] to [ān]; in these texts alone, both endings appear in complementary distribution. In the later Aramaic dialects, however, [ān] dominated.

## 7. The plural formation of final weak nouns.

PHOENICIAN: Final weak nominal plurals ended in *\*iy(y)ōt*, *\*iy(y)īm*, or *\*iy(y)īn*, as for example קצית [qaṣiy(y)ōt] "extremities" (Karatepe A I 14) < קצת [qaṣīt] (Karatepe A I 21, B 1), חמית [hōmīy(y)ōt] "walls" (Karatepe A I 13.17), and ללית [lēliy(y)īn] "night demons" (Arsl.T. 1:20). In Ugaritic, a similar plural appeared, as in *ḥmyt* "the walls of" (CTA 32:28) and perhaps *qrytm* "two cities" (CTA 3:B:7).

ARAMAIC: As in later Aramaic dialects,<sup>121</sup> final weak nouns ended in *\*awwā-* + fem. plural morpheme, as for example מחנות [maḥnawwāt] "camps of" (construct) (Zkr A 9)<sup>122</sup> and סאן [ṣaʾawwān] "ewes" (Fekh. 20). Cf. נשן [naṣawwān] "women" (Fekh. 21.22), in which the root was considered final weak.<sup>123</sup>

A special plural formation of final weak nouns did not appear at Sfire. In the Aramaic dialect of that community, the simple nominal plural morpheme was added to the singular base. So, for example, שאן "ewes" (Sf. I A 23) < sing. שאת (Sf. I A 21) was analyzed as *\*ʾaʾ* + suffix, not as a final weak root.<sup>124</sup> Cf. similarly נשי "the women of" (Sf. I A 41), which also coincides with the general Aramaic plural formations in these nouns.

SAMALIAN: All evidence suggests that the plural of final weak nouns was the same as that of regular, strong nouns. For example, מחנות "camps" (P 13.16), if plural,<sup>125</sup> should be vocalized [maḥnāt], in contrast to Old Aramaic מחנות. Similarly, משות [mašwāt] "(?)" (P 21) is derived from *\*mašway* + *at* (sing.) > *\*mašwaat* > *\*[mašwāt]*<sup>126</sup> → [mašwāt (?)] (plural). The pattern for the plural of final weak nouns, then, followed that of regular, strong nouns.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence. The etymology and meaning of שרין (I 6.5 [partially restored]) is still uncertain; if derived from a final weak root, it is possible that this form reflects a plural formation *\*iy(y)īn* comparable to that of ללית in Arsl.T. 1:20.

MOABITE: Final weak nouns followed the pattern of regular, strong nouns, as for example חמא [hōmā/ōt] "walls" (Mesha 21.21 [both construct]). Cf. Phoenician חמית.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Final weak nouns followed the pattern of regular, strong nouns, as inferred from plural forms in the Masoretic text (e.g., חמֹת [hōmōt] "walls," etc.).

The form of the plural in final weak nouns divided the first-millennium NWS dialects into two groups. In Samalian, Moabite, and Sfire-Aramaic the plural morpheme was attached to the nominal singular base. In Phoenician and Old Aramaic (excluding Sfire), a special plural formation appeared, \*iy(y)- + plural in the former and \*awwā- + fem. plural in the latter. These two northern dialect groups deviated from the common NWS pattern.

On the one hand, Phoenician and Old Aramaic (excepting Sfire) were united by special plural formations of final weak nouns. On the other, the actual plural form itself differed between them. Phoenician leveled all final weak nouns to *yodh* (\*iy[y]-), and Aramaic leveled them to *waw* (\*awwā-). Despite the difference in outcomes, however, these dialects constituted one group in their use of a plural formation for final weak nouns different from that of regular, strong nouns.

## 8. The attaching of possessive suffixes to feminine plural nouns.

BYBLIAN: In all probability, the suffix was attached to fem. plural nouns in the same manner as it was attached to masc./fem. sing. nouns. One example is מג/פשת "my offerings/possessions" (Bronze Spat. 5), where the noun appears to be plural;<sup>127</sup> the first person sing. suffix was -[i]. Had the suffix been attached in the same manner as it was to masc. plural nouns, the form would have been מג/פשת\* with the suffix pronounced [ay(ya)].<sup>128</sup> Further, in the inscriptions from the mid-tenth century onward, שנתו "his years" (Yehimilk 5; Elibaal 3; etc.) ended in the same suffix [aw, ō] as ארתו "his lady" (Elibaal 2; Shiptibaal 4) and זרעו "his seed" (Yehawmilk 15); cf., however, ימו "his days" (Yehawmilk 9), with a different pronunciation.<sup>129</sup> All evidence is admittedly ambiguous with respect to the suffix on these fem. plural nouns. Nevertheless, comparison

with other dialects strongly suggests that the suffix was attached to fem. plural nouns in the same manner as to masc./fem. sing. nouns.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: In all probability, the suffix was attached directly to the noun, without an intervening vowel [ê].<sup>130</sup> The first person sing. suffix was written י- on fem. plural nouns only when the noun stood in the genitive (e.g., בִּימָתִי "in my days" [Kartepe A II 1.5, etc.]; cf. later וְקָרָא אֶת רַבָּתִי אֶת "and I called my lady" [Yehawmilk 2/3], where רַבָּתִי was in the genitive following the preposition אֶת<sup>131</sup>). Similarly, the third person sing. suffix attached to fem. plural nouns appeared as י- in וְשִׁבְעַתְּרִי "and his seven co-wives" (Arsl.T. 1:17). But here too רַבָּתִי was in the genitive case following שִׁבְעַתְּ. <sup>132</sup> In each example, then, it was the genitive construction which demanded the suffix י- on fem. plural nouns. There is no evidence that the fem. plural noun had a binding vowel [ê] before the suffix.

ARAMAIC: The suffix was attached directly onto the fem. plural noun in the same manner as onto masc./fem. sing. nouns (e.g., בְּתָרָה "his daughters" [Sf. I A 24] and מַחֲנֵתָהֶם "their camps" [Zkr A 9]). Cf. the corresponding masc. plural nouns with a connecting diphthong (e.g., בְּנָה "his sons" [Sf. I A 5, etc.] and בְּתֵימָם "their houses" [Sf. II C 16]).

SAMALIAN: The evidence is ambiguous. Both examples of the fem. plural noun + suffix tentatively suggested by Dion<sup>133</sup>—אִמְרָתָה "his command(s)" (H 26.32) and גְּבִרְתָּה "his strength" (H 32)—may have been fem. sing. nouns just as well.<sup>134</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.<sup>135</sup>

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: The scanty evidence suggests that, like Aramaic and Phoenician, the suffix was directly attached to fem. plural nouns.<sup>136</sup> The form מַגְדָּלָתָה [magdalā/ōtāh] "its towers" (Mesha 22) contrasts with the only other example of the third person fem. sing. suffix on a plural noun, שַׁעְרֶיהָ "its gates" (Mesha 22). Whereas Cross and Freedman<sup>137</sup> saw the identical suffix in both forms, the example of Phoenician and Aramaic suggests that the two forms are to be examined individually. יָה- is derived from the masc. plural construct ending \*ay + suffix, whereas הָ- is, like the suffix on sing. nouns, the simple suffix added directly onto the noun. The Moabite form would therefore tally with that of the other NWS dialects, with the exception of Hebrew.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: As inferred from BH, the suffixes were attached to fem. plural nouns in the same manner as to masc. plural nouns: a binding vowel [ê] was transferred from the masc. to the fem. plural suffixed form,<sup>138</sup> probably on the following model:

[bānīm] "sons" : [bān-ê-hā] "her sons"  
 [bānôt] "daughters" : \*bānôt- -hā "her daughters"

The connecting vowel [ê] was inserted in the fem. plural paradigm on analogy with the masc. plural suffixed noun. In the southern dialect the connecting vowel would have been \*[ay], as in לפניך [li-pānayk(a)] "before you" (Arad 7:6); in the northern dialect it would have been the monophthong [ê] (no certain examples).

The evidence suggests that the general NWS pattern for appending suffixes onto fem. plural nouns was noun + suffix of the masc./fem. sing. noun. Since, like masc. and fem. sing. nouns, the fem. plural ended in a simple consonant, the suffix could have been attached directly onto the noun (perhaps with a short, connecting vowel). This pattern appeared in Aramaic, Moabite, and probably Phoenician.

A second formation was attested only in Hebrew. On analogy with the suffixed masc. plural noun, the fem. plural suffixed noun borrowed the connective \*[ay]/[ê] and inserted it between the fem. plural noun and suffix. Like other cases of proportional analogy, this transference was idiosyncratic, restricted to a single dialect, and did not spread to other dialects.

### 9a. The form of the possessive suffix attached to "singular" nouns: The first person singular.

BYBLIAN: Ø [i], when the noun was in the nominative/accusative, and י- [iya (?)], when the noun was in the genitive case. While there is no direct evidence from Byblian of this period, later texts show that the distinction between [i] and [iya (?)] was maintained (e.g., קל [qōlī] "my voice" [Yehawmilk 3.8], as direct object of שמע "she heard" vs. על פן פתחי [pittūḥiya (?)] "of my inscription" [Yehawmilk 5], as genitive governed by a prepositional phrase).<sup>139</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN:  $\text{𐤁}$  [i], when the noun was in the nominative/\*accusative<sup>140</sup> case (e.g.,  $\text{וּכְן. אֲבִי}$  [ʔabī] “and my father was” [Kilamu 3]), and  $\text{י}$  [iya (ʔ)], when the noun was in the genitive case (e.g.,  $\text{בֵּית אֲבִי}$  [ʔabīya (ʔ)] “my father’s house” [Kilamu 5; cf. l. 9 = Karatepe A I 11] and  $\text{בֵּית אֲדֹנִי}$  [ʔadōniya (ʔ)] “my lordly houses”<sup>141</sup> [Karatepe A I 10]). In later standard Phoenician, the written form  $\text{י}$  was pronounced [i] and was standardized for all cases.<sup>142</sup>

ARAMAIC:  $\text{י}$  [i], regardless of construction, as for example  $\text{אֲבִי}$  [ʔabī] “my father” (Br-Rkb 1:4, etc.; Sf. II B 8, etc. [all genitive]),  $\text{לֶחְמִי}$  [lahmī] “my food” (Sf. I B 38 [accusative]), etc.<sup>143</sup>

SAMALIAN:  $\text{י}$  [i], regardless of construction, as for example  $\text{מִשְׁבִּי}$  [maṭṭabī, maššabī] “my throne” (H 15.20 [both genitive]),  $\text{אֲבִי}$  [ʔabī] “my father” (H 8; P 10 [both genitive]; P 6.8.10 [all nominative]), etc.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA:  $\text{י}$  [i], attested only in  $\text{לִבִּי}$  [libbī (ʔ)] “my heart (ʔ)” (II 32).

MOABITE:  $\text{י}$  [i], regardless of construction, as for example  $\text{אֲבִי}$  [ʔabī] “my father” (Mesha 3 [genitive]; l. 2 [nominative]).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW:  $\text{י}$  [i], regardless of construction, as for example  $\text{כִּצְאֹתִי}$  [kʔṣ̥ē(ʔ)i] “when I left” (Arad 16:3 [genitive]),  $\text{אֲדֹנִי}$  [ʔdōnī] “my lord” (Arad 18:1; Lach. 2:1, etc. [all genitive]; Arad 21:3 [nominative]), etc.

Most of the first-millennium NWS dialects had [i] for the possessive suffix of the first person sing. on sing. nouns. This ending appeared regardless of the syntax of the base noun; after the loss of final short vowels, the suffix on genitive nouns ([iya(ʔ)]) had merged with its nominative/accusative counterpart ([i]).

Only the Phoenician dialects preserved this distinction between [i] and [iya (ʔ)]. Like Ugaritic<sup>144</sup> and Akkadian,<sup>145</sup> the Phoenician dialects show [iya (ʔ)] on the genitive noun and [i] on the nominative/accusative. Even after short, final vowels had been lost in NWS, standard Phoenician continued to preserve, at least orthographically, the distinction between the different forms of the possessive pronoun. Later, one orthographic form and one pronunciation became standardized for all cases. Like the other NWS dialects, then, Phoenician ultimately used the single ending  $\text{י}$  [i] for the first person sing. possessive suffix.

## 9b. The third person sing. suffix, masculine and feminine.

BYBLIAN: Masc. ה- [hū] in the oldest inscription, as for example אבה [ʾabihū] "his father" (Ahirom 1). In the course of the tenth century, however, the Byblian suffix changed to ו- [aw, ô], as for example אדרתו [ʾadōttaw, -tô]<sup>146</sup> "his lady" (Elibaal 2; Shiptibaal 4) and שנתו [šanōtaw, -tô] "his years" (Yehimilk 5; Elibaal 3; Shiptibaal 5).<sup>147</sup>

Fem. ה-<sup>\*</sup> [hā], as inferred from the late Byblian form מספנתה "its roof" (Yehawmilk 6).

Another suffix, ך- [nnū (?)] < \*n-hū, is found only on monoconsonantal prepositions in later Byblian texts (e.g., בן [bi/annū (?)] "in it" [KAI 9 A 3]). In the earlier texts, however, there is no example of a preposition + third person masc./fem. sing. suffix. Two hypotheses can explain the appearance of this form in the later dialect: (1) ך- occurred in the older phase of the dialect but is as yet unattested. In this case, ך- would have been native to this dialect; or (2) ך- spread from standard Phoenician (where it is attested already in the eighth century) to later Byblian. In this second case, ך- was not an indigenous form but spread, or was borrowed, from the neighboring dialect. Since later Byblian shows a number of borrowings from standard Phoenician, the second hypothesis is preferable.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: Masc. The ending was -ø [ô] < \*-ahū if the suffix did not follow a vowel, as for example שם [šmô] "his name" (Karatepe A III 14.16, C IV 16 [accusative]) and ראש [rōšô] "his head" (Kilamu 15.16 [accusative]). If the suffix followed a vowel, especially the genitive vowel [i], the ending was ו- ([yū]<sup>148</sup> or [yī]<sup>149</sup>), as for example in צרתי [šarōtiyū/ī] "of his co-wives" (Arsl.T. 1:17), לתתי [li-tittiyū/ī] "that he may give" (Karatepe A III 4), and עד מבאי "until its setting" (Karatepe A I 5, II 3). See the identical distribution of the first person sing. possessive suffix on "singular" nouns.

The distinction between the suffixed [ô] and [iyū/ī] had begun to deteriorate by the late eighth century B.C.E.<sup>150</sup> In Karatepe A III 14.16, C IV 16, the text reads ושת שם "and sets up his name ([šmô])," whereas in C IV 18, the text reads ושת שמי, with the same meaning.<sup>151</sup> Either שמי is an orthographic error, or the form of the suffix after the genitive vowel [i] was beginning to predominate over the other form [ô]. Cf., in this respect, the competition between forms of the first person sing. suffix [ī] and [iya (?)].



Fem. Like its masc. counterpart, the ending was  $\text{-}h̄ < *ahā$ , if the governing noun ended in a consonant, as for example שם [šmā] "its name" (Karatepe A II 10.18 [accusative]). If, however, the governing noun ended in a vowel, the suffix was  $\text{-}i < *i-yā < *-i-hā$ <sup>152</sup> (no examples from this period).

The fem. sing. suffix appeared as  $\text{-}i [nnā (?) < *n-hā$  only on monoconsonantal prepositions, as for example בן [bi/annā (?)] "in it (the city)" (Karatepe A II 18, III 8).<sup>153</sup>

ARAMAIC: Masc. ה- [ih (?)] <  $*i-hā$ , as for example ידה [yadih (?)] "his hand" (Sf. I B 27, III 2), בנותה [banātih (?)] "his daughters" (Sf. I A 24), etc. The vocalization is inferred from the later Aramaic dialects which consistently exhibit a form of  $*ih$  as this suffix. Like the standard Phoenician suffixes "my" [iya (?)] and "his/her" [iyū/ī, iyā], the connecting vowel between the noun and the suffix was the genitive [i]. In Aramaic, however, the genitive case became standardized as the connecting vowel for this suffix; in Phoenician, the use of the connecting [i] was subject to the syntax of the noun.

Fem. ה- [ah(a)] <  $*a-hā$ , as for example עמה ['ammah(a)] "its people" (Sf. I A 29, etc.), כלה [kullah(a)] "all of it" (Sf. I A 5), etc. The exact pronunciation of the suffix is unknown. Either the original  $*ahā$  was preserved or it was shortened to [ah]. The suffix was ה-, regardless of the case of the governing noun.

SAMALIAN: Masc. ה- [(?)], as in אב(ו)ה "his father" (H 29; P 2, etc.), מראה "his lord" (P 11.12), מושבה "his throne" (P 2), and לה "to him" (Kilamu Scepter 5).

Fem. ה- [(?)], as in כלה "all of it" (P 17).

AMMONITE: Masc. ה-<sup>154</sup> [uh, ih] <  $*-uhu$  or  $*-ihi$ , as in ברה "its laver (?)" (Cit. 5).<sup>155</sup> The interpretation of this form and word is disputed, however.

Fem. No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: Masc. ה- [(?)], as in עמה "his people" (I 4, II 17), לבבה "his heart" (II 12), etc.

Fem. No evidence.

MOABITE: Masc. ה- [(?)],<sup>156</sup> as in בנה "his son" (Mesha 6.8), בת(ה) "his house" (Mesha 7.25), בה "over him" (Mesha 7), etc.

Fem. ה- [āh], as in בה [bāh] "in it" (Mesha 8, etc.) and מגדלתה [magdalā/ōtāh] "its towers" (Mesha 22).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Masc. The orthography of this suffix changed considerably throughout the history of epigraphic Hebrew. If the vocali-

zation of ירח as [yarḥô] "his month" is accepted for Gezer Cal. 3, etc.,<sup>157</sup> early Hebrew had a third person masc. sing. suffix in -h. The suffix would therefore be derived from *\*-ahû* > [ô].<sup>158</sup> Yet the form of ירח cannot be interpreted with any certainty.

The first certain example of the third person masc. sing. suffix is ה-, pronounced [ô] < *\*-ahû*.<sup>159</sup> See, for example, אַשְׁרָתָה "his Asherah" (Ajrud), עַבְדָּה "his servant" (Lach. 2:5), אִמְתָּה "his maidservant" (Silwan B 2), etc. The identical suffix was represented by ו- in רֵעוּ [rē'aw, rē'ô] "his fellow" (Shiloah 3); the waw was an alternate orthography for [ô] < *\*-aw* < *\*-ahû*.<sup>160</sup> The other suggested cases of the third person masc. sing. suffix ו-—Beit Lei A 2 לו "to him"<sup>161</sup> and Yavneh-Yam 1:6 קצרו "his harvest"<sup>162</sup>—may be misreadings of the text.<sup>163</sup>

Fem. No evidence.

Although there is little evidence for the vocalization of the third person masc. sing. possessive suffix, each dialect probably had its own pronunciation of the suffix. Nevertheless, the dialects can be arranged, at least superficially, into groups. Old Aramaic (and Samalian?) preserved a final vowel on the suffix. Standard Phoenician and Aramaic shared the genitive case as the connecting vowel; in Aramaic, the vowel [i] was frozen and used for all nominal cases, thus [ih (?)], whereas in standard Phoenician the vowel [i] was restricted to the genitive case of the noun. Standard Phoenician, however, exhibits a further development from the original *\*-hû* since palatalization of the *he* occurred, so that this *\*h* following the genitive [i] became י.<sup>164</sup> No other dialect exhibits this phenomenon.

The suffix [ô] < *\*-ahû* was characteristic of standard Phoenician when the governing noun was in the nominative or accusative case. The vocalization [ô] is also found in Hebrew, regardless of the case of the governing noun.

There were fewer variations of the third person fem. sing. suffix in the different dialects. Old Aramaic preserved an old ending [ah(a)]. Moabite had a simplified [āh], and standard Phoenician was characterized by total syncopation of intervocalic *he*, thus [â]. This standard Phoenician form is found only on nominative and accusative sing. nouns. Palatalization of the *he* in the fem. sing. suffix, as in its masc. counterpart, occurred on genitive nouns: *\*-ihû* > [iyā]. The final feminine [â] was preserved. Further, there was a fem. sing. suffix [nnā (?)] in standard Phoenician found only on prepositions.

Standard Phoenician, then, exhibits, by far, the greatest number of (1) suffixes of the third person singular, and (2) phonetic variants of the original *\*-hū* and *\*-hā*. The suffixes of the other dialects are, to a large extent, traceable to forms found already in standard Phoenician.

### 9c. The first person plural.

PHOENICIAN: *ן*-, as in *לן* "for us" (Arsl.T. 1:9<sup>165</sup>). It is unclear whether the vocalization was [nū], like Hebrew and EA, or [ōn], like Punic.<sup>166</sup>

ARAMAIC: *ן*- [an, na], as in *מראן* "our lord" (Haza'el).<sup>167</sup> The orthography of the suffix does not indicate whether the suffix was pronounced [na], with short [a], thereby anticipating the later common Aramaic suffix [nā].<sup>168</sup> or [an], like the suffix in eastern Aramaic dialects which have lost final vowels.<sup>169</sup> In the Elephantine texts, however, the first person plural suffix of the verb was represented by both *ן*- and *נא*-, thus [nā].<sup>170</sup> The spelling with simple final *nun* may therefore reflect the old orthography. The pronunciation may have been [na] or [an] in the early texts.<sup>171</sup>

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence. Both examples cited by Hoftijzer<sup>172</sup>—*שתי וכן* "and we have beverage (?)" (II 18) and *בן* "on (?) us" (II 20)—appear in passages too unclear to yield any meaning.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: *ננו*- [nū], as in *אנינו* "we are not" (Arad 40:13/14) and *שמרן* "our keeper, protector" (Ajrud). While the Arad form shows the expected orthographic representation of [nū], the Ajrud form is an archaic spelling of the same suffix.

In NWS, and all Semitic languages, two forms of the first person plural possessive suffix appear. The old suffix, *\*nā*,<sup>173</sup> appears in Aramaic dialects and other West Semitic languages. The other suffix, *\*nū*, is found in Hebrew and (?) Phoenician; the final *ū* may have been borrowed from the ending of the independent pronoun.<sup>174</sup>

## 9d. The third person masculine plural.

BYBLIAN: No evidence.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: נם- [nōm],<sup>175</sup> when following a vowel, especially the genitive vowel [i], as for example לשבתנם "that they might dwell" (Karatepe A I 17), בנחת לבנם "in the tranquility of their heart" (Karatepe A I 18), etc. Otherwise, the suffix was ם- [ōm] < \**-a-humu*, as inferred from the later forms זרעם [zar'ōm] "their seed" (Eshmunazor 22 [accusative]), קלם "their voice" (KA I 47:4 [accusative]), etc. These two forms of the suffix, then, stood in complementary distribution.

ARAMAIC: הם- [hum], as in קרקהם "their fugitive" (Sf. III 19/20 [nominative]), להם "to, for them" (Sf. III 3.5, etc.), נבשהם "their soul" (Sf. III 5/6.6/7 [accusative]), etc. Another form, ם- [am], occurred only in the Fekh. text, as in כלם "all of them" (II. 4.4).<sup>176</sup>

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: Two forms of the third person masc. plural suffix are attested in Deir Alla. One is הם- [hum (?)], found only in להם "to them" (I 5). The other is ם- [am (?)], possibly found in the uncertain form בלבנם "in their heart" (II 12).<sup>177</sup> On the basis of this little information, it appears that, as in Hebrew, the Deir Alla suffix [am] was used following consonants, while the other form [hum (?)] followed vowels. Cf. also standard Phoenician.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: ם- [ām] followed consonantal endings (e.g., ימם [yômām] "their day" [Ajrud] and אתם [ʔôtām] "them" [Arad 3:6]), whereas הם- [hem]<sup>178</sup> followed vocalic endings (only in להם [lāhem] "for them" [Arad 1:8]).

Regardless of the syntax of the noun, Aramaic dialects generally had one suffix throughout the entire paradigm, [hum]. The remaining dialects, however, show a formal distinction between the postvocalic and postconsonantal suffix. Postconsonantally, \**am* appeared in Deir Alla, Hebrew (with tonic lengthening), Fekh.-Aramaic, and standard Phoenician (with tonic lengthening and \**ā*:[ō] correspondence).<sup>179</sup> Postvocally, Deir Alla and Hebrew employed הם- (with different pronunciations), whereas Phoenician had a new form נם-. For this *nun*, cf. already the third person sing. suffix on mono-

consonantal prepositions ך. Thus, standard Phoenician, Fekh.-Aramaic, Deir Alla, and Hebrew formed one group; Aramaic-speaking communities, other than Fekheriyeh, constituted another.

10a. The form of the possessive suffix attached to "plural" nouns: The second person masculine singular.

PHOENICIAN: No evidence.

ARAMAIC: ך [ayk], as in שפתך "your lips" (Sf. III 14/15).<sup>180</sup>

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: ך [ayk], as in עלמך "your eternities" (II 11).

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Two forms of this suffix appeared in the epigraphic texts. The first, ך, appeared in, for example, לפניך "before you" (Arad 7:6), אליך "to you" (Mur 17 A 2), and אלהיך "your god" (Lach. 6:12/13). The other form, יכּה, appears now in אלהיכּה "your god" (Beit Lei A 1<sup>181</sup>). This second "long" form suggests that, as in BH, the epigraphic form was pronounced [kâ]. Although the two spellings of this suffix may reflect dialectal differences, it is more likely that the difference is merely orthographic. The "short" form was an archaic spelling for [kâ]; the "long" form was its phonetic spelling.<sup>182</sup>

All forms of the second person masc. sing. suffix are derived from *\*-kâ*.<sup>183</sup> Southern Hebrew [aykâ],<sup>184</sup> then, was inherited. In Aramaic and Deir Alla, the form was [ayk]; the loss of final *a* is an innovation which also occurs elsewhere in Semitic.<sup>185</sup> Neither form, then, was an exclusively shared innovation.

10b. The third person masculine singular.

BYBLIAN: ך-\* [aw (?)], as inferred from the late Byblian form ימּו [yômaw (?)] "his days" (Yehawmilk 9). Since *he* did not syncope in any NWS form of this suffix,<sup>186</sup> the evidence suggests a development from *\*yômay-hũ* > (via regressive assimilation) *\*yômaw-hũ* > *\*yômaw-wu* > *\*yômaww* > [yômaw (?)].

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: י- [êyû/i], as in עלו ['alêyû/i] "against him" (Kilamu 8) and למנערי "from his youth" (Kilamu 12) < \*ê-yûlî < \*-ay-hû. Like י- "his" attached to sing. nouns, this form of the suffix was used since it always followed a vowel. Cf. similarly the objective suffix on the infinitive absolute of final weak verbs, e.g. ובני ארך [banôyā] "and I built it" (Karatepe A II 11).

ARAMAIC: ויה [awh(i)], as in בנוה [banawh(i)] "his sons" (Sf. I A 5, II B 2'.6), שנה "his years" (Fekh. 8), and קדמוה "before him" (Nerab 2:2). Another form of this suffix may appear in Halaf Ost. 4 Obv. 3, רבי[ה] "his elders."<sup>187</sup>

The development of the suffix in רבי[ה] is similar to that of standard Phoenician. Vocalized [ayh(i)], this suffix is composed of the masc. plural construct ending \*ay + third person masc. sing. suffix \*-hû > [h(i)]. A similar suffix appears in the Uruk incantation as [ayhî] as well as [êhî] in Eastern Aramaic.<sup>188</sup>

The development of the Old Aramaic form, ויה, is uncertain. As Degen<sup>189</sup> observed, the theory that this suffix is a compound of \*-ayhû > \*-ayhu > (with syncope of intervocalic *he*) \*-ayu > (syncope of intervocalic *yodh*) \*-aw + secondary suffix \*-hu > \*-awhu > [awh(i)] (via dissimilation)<sup>190</sup> is unfounded. First, there is no example of the syncope of intervocalic *he* in most Aramaic dialects.<sup>191</sup> Second, the addition of one suffix onto another, in this form, is otherwise unattested in the NWS dialects. Consequently, another explanation which would align the Old Aramaic form with those of the other NWS dialects is in order.

It is possible that the form of the suffix developed along the following lines: \*-ay-hû > (via regressive assimilation) \*-aw-hû > (dissimilation of *u-u*) [awhî]. The *he*, then, is part of the original form of the suffix and is not a secondary addition. If this development is correct, it not only conforms with generally accepted NWS phonetic changes but also follows the same development as forms of this suffix in the other NWS dialects.

SAMALIAN: There were two forms of this suffix in Samalian depending upon the syntax of the noun. When the noun was in the nominative case, the suffix was יה- [ûh(i/u)] (e.g., אחיה [ʾayhûh(i/u)] "his brothers" [H 30; P 17]). When, however, the noun was in the oblique case, the suffix was יה- [ih(u/i)] (e.g., אחיה [ʾayhîh(u/i)] "his brothers" [H 27.28] and ביומיה [biyawmîh(u/i)] "in his days" [P 9]).

The presence of the *yodh* on oblique forms suggests that the suffix *he* began a new syllable. Since *yodh* was written for [î] only

in open syllables,<sup>192</sup> the *he* of the suffix could not have closed the preceding syllable (i.e. lacking a vowel) but rather began a syllable, leaving the preceding syllable open. If, however, the final vowel had been long, it would have appeared in the orthography. Thus the vowel following the *he* was probably short. The quality of the vowel is unknown.

AMMONITE: No evidence. Dion<sup>193</sup> suggested that the masc. plural construct noun + third person masc. sing. suffix appears in the Amman Citadel inscription, l. 4, as בצר־הוֹ "with his enemies." Yet the last legible letter of this line is probably ק, not ה. <sup>194</sup> This word, then, is not an example of the third person masc. sing. suffix on a masc. plural noun.

DEIR ALLA: הוֹ [awh(u/i)], as in אלוֹה [ʔilawh(u/i)] "to him" (I 1.4) and possibly כפרה [kappawh(u/i)] "his palms" (IXa 3). The suffix in the Deir Alla dialect apparently developed in the same manner as that of Old Aramaic.<sup>195</sup> It is unclear, however, whether a final (short?) vowel was present in the Deir Alla suffix or whether it was already lost.

MOABITE: ה- [ôh(u/i) (?)], as in ימֵה [yômôh(u/i) (?)] "his days" (Mesha 8) and רשֵׁה [rôsôh(u/i) (?)] "its chiefs" (Mesha 20);<sup>196</sup> cf. the feminine counterpart in שערֵה "its gates" (Mesha 22), with *yodh* in the suffix. The suffix probably developed from \*yômay-hû > \*aw-hû > (contraction of the diphthong) [ôh(u/i) (?)]. This development most closely resembles that of Old Aramaic and Deir Alla.<sup>197</sup>

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: ה- [āw], as in אנשֵׁו "his men" (Lach. 3:18) and possibly אלֵו "to him" (Yavneh-Yam 1:13). This suffix may also appear in the northern Hebrew text of Gezer, ירחו "his months" (Gezer Cal. 1.1.2).<sup>198</sup> Like other NWS forms, this suffix probably developed from \*ay-hû > \*aw-hû > \*aw-wu > \*aww > \*aw > (via stress-lengthening)<sup>199</sup> [āw]. It is possible, of course, that the suffix developed differently in northern and southern Hebrew,<sup>200</sup> although such a difference is not apparent in the epigraphic texts.

Lemaire<sup>201</sup> has suggested that another form of this suffix, הֵה, appears in מצרֵה "his enemies" (el-Qom 3:3). The text of this passage, however, is uncertain. Dever<sup>202</sup> read the form as מארר "cursed," which appears to fit the context better. There is, then, no evidence for a form of the third person masc. sing. suffix on masc. plural nouns other than the single ה- [āw].

With the exception of the conservative form of this suffixed noun in Samalian,<sup>203</sup> the first-millennium NWS dialects form two major groups characterized by shared innovations. Standard Phoenician and the Aramaic dialect of Tell Halaf constitute one group whose suffixed noun developed from *\*-ayhû*. The other group—most Old Aramaic dialects, Deir Alla, Moabite, Hebrew, and possibly Byblian—exhibit a suffixed form derived from *\*-awhû*.<sup>204</sup> Within this second group, Hebrew and (?) Byblian exclusively share the progressive assimilation of *he* in *\*-awhû* > *\*-awwu*. The form of this suffixed noun in Ammonite and Edomite is unknown.

### 10c. The third person masculine plural.

BYBLIAN: הם-<sup>\*</sup> [êhum (?)], as inferred from the later Byblian form עלהם [‘alêhum (?)] ‘‘upon them’’ (Yehawmilk 6).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: נם-<sup>\*</sup> [ênôm], as inferred from its appearance only after vocalic endings in sing. nouns.<sup>205</sup> Cf. the third person plural objective suffix [nôm] following long vowels.

ARAMAIC: יהם- [ayhum], as in בתיהם [bâtayhum] ‘‘their houses’’ (Sf. II C 16) and ימיהם [yawmayhum] ‘‘their days’’ (Sf. II C 17). The connecting vowel of the masc. plural construct, [ay], remained uncontracted.

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: הם-<sup>\*</sup> [ay/ê-hem], as inferred from the forms in the Masoretic text. The connecting vowel was [ê] in the northern dialect and [ay] in the southern, conforming with the rules of phonetic change in these dialects.<sup>206</sup> The [e] of the suffix in the Masoretic form was transferred from the fem. plural form *\*hinna*. Thus, masc. plural *\*humu* lost [u] and adopted *\*i* from the fem., producing [hem]. Cf. similarly the second person plural perfect suffix [tem] < *\*-tum*.

All attested forms of the third person masc. plural suffix attached to plural nouns are derived from *\*-ay-hum*, with some variations due to regular phonetic change. Thus [ayhum] appeared in



Old Aramaic, and [êhum (?)] (with diphthong contraction) in Byblian Phoenician. In standard Phoenician, the original *he* changed into *nun* after a vowel, so that this form appeared as [ênôm]. The tonic vowel also lengthened in this suffix.

In Hebrew dialects, the connecting vowel was [ay] and [ê] in southern and northern regions, respectively. The suffix itself was pronounced [hem], on analogy with its fem. plural counterpart. This particular analogy is idiosyncratic to Hebrew.

### 11a. The objective suffixes: The third person masculine singular.<sup>207</sup>

BYBLIAN: In the oldest text, the suffix was ה- [hû], as in שׂתה [šōtahû] ‘‘he placed him’’ (Ahirom 1) < \*šāta + hû.<sup>208</sup> In later Byblian, the suffix appeared as ך- in תחור ‘‘may she preserve him’’ (Yehawmilk 9); the form was pronounced, perhaps, [taḥawwēw] < \*-êhû. The identical change in the form of this suffix occurred also in the possessive suffix, third person masc. sing., in this dialect: ה- > ך-.<sup>209</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: Two forms of this objective suffix were used in complementary distribution. When the verb ended in a vowel, the suffix was ך- [yû/ī], as for example שתי [šōttīyû/ī] ‘‘I made him’’ (Kilamu 11) < \*šātti + hû and the later form שביני [yôšibnūyû/ī] ‘‘we caused him to dwell’’ (Eshmunazor 17) < \*yôšibnû + hû. When the suffix was attached to the final consonant of a verb, it appeared as ם- [ô], as may be inferred by the analogy with the possessive suffixes, and by the Punic forms ברבא [barakô]<sup>210</sup> ‘‘he blessed him’’ (NP 8:2, etc.) and יברבא [yibrukô (?)] ‘‘he will bless him’’ (KAI 98:4/5); cf. the transcriptions BAPAXΩ ‘‘he blessed him’’ (KAI 175:4/5) and *felo* ‘‘he made it’’ (*Or Ant* 2:83,5), as well as the Phoenician form יברך ‘‘may he bless him’’ (KAI 38:2, etc.).<sup>211</sup> The possessive and objective suffixes of the third person masc. sing., then, followed the same pattern of complementary distribution: ם- [ô] followed consonants, and ך- [yû/ī] followed vowels.

ARAMAIC: ה- [ih (?)], as in היטבתה [hayṭibtih (?)] ‘‘I made it better’’ (Br-Rkb 1:12) and תשריה ‘‘may you release him’’ (Sf. III 18). In those verbal forms derived from ‘‘long’’ imperfects, the suffix was נה-, as for example יקחלנה ‘‘he will kill him’’ (Sf. I B 27), יהנסנה ‘‘he will remove it’’ (Zkr B 20), and יעברנה ‘‘he hates him’’ (Sf. III 17).

SAMALIAN: ה- [(?)], as in בכיה "they bewailed him" (P 17), תהרגה "you will kill him" (H 33), and לכתשה "may they pound him" (H 31). This suffix was attached to both vocalic and consonantal endings of the verb.

AMMONITE: No certain evidence. Cross<sup>212</sup> read אכחור[ה]ן "I shall extirpate him" in Amman Cit. 3. Kutscher<sup>213</sup> read אכחור(?) "I shall destroy him." Either reading would require an objective suffix ו- or ה-. Since the reading of the line, and form, are so uncertain, it is prudent to abstain from drawing any morphological conclusions from this text alone.<sup>214</sup>

DEIR ALLA: י- [(?)], as in תשנאן "you hate him" (II 10) and possibly תכסן "you will cover him" (II 10).<sup>215</sup> The context and text, however, are broken.

MOABITE: ה- [(?)],<sup>216</sup> as in ויגרשה "and he expelled him" (Mesha 19), ויחלפה "and he succeeded him" (Mesha 6), and (fem.) ויחזמתה "I consecrated it" (Mesha 17). There is no example of this suffix on nonconsecutive imperfect verbs in the extant texts.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The suffix ה- [ô] < \*-ahû followed consonantal endings, as for example לקחה [lqāḥô] "he took him" (Lach. 4:6) < \*laqah + ô and שלחה [šlāḥô] "he sent it" (Lach. 3:21). הו- [hû] followed accented vowels, as for example ויעלהו [way-ya'lēhû] "and he brought him up" (Lach. 4:6/7). A third suffix, נו- [énû] < \*-en-hû, appeared in the epigraphic texts in שלחנו "send it!" (Arad 4:2), in which *nun* (cf. Aramaic and, probably, Deir Alla) preceded the ending [hû]. It has also been suggested in Yavneh-Yam 1:14 לא תרחנו "do not drive him away,"<sup>217</sup> although the reading is disputed.<sup>218</sup>

The NWS dialects exhibit two forms of the third person masc. sing. objective suffix. Perfect verbs took *h*-forms of the suffix (with regular phonetic variants), as in Old Byblian, standard Phoenician, Old Aramaic, Samalian, Moabite, and Hebrew. Other verbal forms, however, took two suffixes—an *n*-form and a *h*-form. When the verb originally ended in a vowel, as in the "long" imperfect or long imperative, the *n*-form was used; the *n*-form appeared in Old Aramaic (נה-), Hebrew (נו-), and probably Deir Alla (י-?). In those verbs originally ending in a consonant, the *h*-form was used, as in the Old Aramaic jussive and Moabite consecutive imperfect. This distribution between *n*- and *h*-forms is apparently Proto-Semitic.<sup>219</sup>

In those dialects, however, which have lost the morphological distinction between indicative and jussive/"short" imperfects,<sup>220</sup> the *n*-form of the third person masc. sing. objective suffix has apparently disappeared as well. Thus standard Phoenician and Samalian had only *h*-forms. The other dialects, perhaps including Moabite, had both forms.

### 11b. The third person masculine plural.

BYBLIAN: No evidence.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: Like the possessive suffix, the objective suffix was *ם*- [ōm] < \**-a-humu* when attached to consonants (e.g., ירדם [yōridōm] "(I) exiled<sup>221</sup> them" and ישבם [yōšibōm] "(I) made them settle" [Karatepe A I 20 (both inf. abs. + suffix)]), and *נם*- [nōm] following vowels (e.g., עתנם ['innē/itī-nōm (?)] "I subdued them" [Karatepe A I 20], שתנם [šōttī-nōm] "I placed them" [Karatepe A I 16], and the later form יסגרנם [yasgirū-nōm] "they will deliver them up" [Eshmunazor 21]). The two forms of this suffix were in strict complementary distribution.

ARAMAIC: *ם*- [hum], as in תרקם "you will appease them" (Sf. III 6; cf. ארקם "I shall appease them" [Sf. III 6]), תהשבם "you will bring them back" (Sf. III 6), and תהסכרם "you will hand them over" (Sf. III 2). This suffix *ם*- was attached to verbs ending in both consonants and vowels; the suffix, then, had achieved a frozen form.

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence. Puech and Rofé<sup>222</sup> have tentatively identified a third person plural objective pronoun in Amman Citadel, l. 3 אכחרם, where *ם*- represents this suffix. Yet the reading and interpretation of this line are uncertain and cannot provide the basis for any dialectal conclusions.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.<sup>223</sup>

MOABITE: *ם*- [hum (?)], as in ואסחבם "and I dragged them" (Mesha 18). Because of the presence of the word divider, the objective suffix was probably a form of the independent pronoun in Moabite;<sup>224</sup> the plural suffix had not yet been fused to the verb.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The only suffix attested in the epigraphic texts is *ם*- [ām], which followed a consonant, as for example והבקים "and he will hand them over" (Arad 24:14/15) and נתתם [n<sup>ṭ</sup>tatt-ām] "you have

given them<sup>225</sup> (Arad 40:10). There is no suffix corresponding to the Aramaic-Moabite  $\text{הם}$ - or to an *n*-based form. In BH, this suffix  $\text{ם}$ - was also attached directly to vocalic endings,<sup>226</sup> although the vocalization was different.

Dialectal divisions based upon the form of the third person plural objective suffix are easily delineated. The old form  $\text{הם}$ - appeared in Aramaic and Moabite; a form in  $\text{ם}$ - < *\*-a-humu* was likewise found in standard Phoenician (one form) and Hebrew. These four dialects, then, constituted one dialect group which used the base *\*h-m* for the objective suffix; Hebrew and standard Phoenician formed a subgroup within this group.

The other standard Phoenician suffix, [nôm], was apparently unique. Yet the identical *nun* is found in third person sing. possessive and objective suffixes in several NWS dialects. On the objective suffix, the *nun* occurred in Aramaic, Deir Alla, and in Hebrew. On the possessive suffix, the *nun* appeared in standard Phoenician (on prepositions). In each instance, moreover, the *n*-form followed an original vowel; cf. also the possessive suffix [nôm] in standard Phoenician. On the one hand, then, the objective suffix [nôm] was isolated among the NWS dialects. On the other, the intrusive *nun* was common to these dialects and survived sporadically in different forms of the NWS third person suffixes. The *nun* was a common inheritance of all the NWS dialects, at least in the third person objective suffixes.

## 12. Numerals: The endings of the cardinal decades.

PHOENICIAN:  $\text{ם}$ -, as in תשעם "90" (Bronze Spat. 2).

ARAMAIC:  $\text{ן}$ -, as in שלשן "30" (KAI 219:3).

SAMALIAN:  $\text{י}$ -, as in והרג שבעי 70 אחי אבה "and he killed seventy brothers of his father" (P 3). The ending  $\text{י}$ - resembles those Semitic languages which form the decades by adding a dual suffix *\*ā* (nominative)/*\*ay* (oblique) onto the single digits; in Akkadian and Ethiopic, the decades end in [ā], and in ESA they end in *-(h)y*.<sup>227</sup> The Samalian form is very similar to that of ESA.<sup>228</sup> It is possible, though, that the final *yodh*, instead of marking the oblique dual [ay], was the sign of the masc. plural oblique [ī], corresponding to nominative [û]; since "70" was the object of the verb, the decade may

have been formed by adding a masc. plural ending onto the digit, י-, which would be י- in the oblique case.<sup>229</sup> Nonetheless, the parallel between שבעי and the Akkadian/Ethiopic forms, especially the ESA form, is highly suggestive.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: י-, as in ארבען "40" (Mesha 8), חמשן "50" (Mesha 28), and שלשן "30" (Mesha 2).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: ים\*, as inferred from the form of the decades in BH.

Within the Semitic languages, there are two endings of the cardinal decades.<sup>230</sup> The decade can end in the nominal-adjectival masc. plural morpheme, as in Arabic, Hebrew, and Aramaic. Alternatively, it can end in the nominal-adjectival dual morpheme on analogy with the dual ending of "20," as in Akkadian, Ethiopic, and ESA. Most of the NWS dialects follow the model of Arabic; Phoenician, Aramaic, Moabite, and Hebrew added the masc. plural morpheme onto the digit to form the decade. The other NWS dialect which preserves a decade, Samalian, appears to have followed the pattern of Akkadian, Ethiopic, and ESA by adding the dual \*ā/\*ay onto the corresponding digit. It is possible, however, that the final *yodh* on the Samalian form was the masc. plural oblique morpheme whose nominative would have been *waw*. The discovery of a nominative decade in this dialect would resolve this problem.

### 13. The coordinating conjunction(s).

PHOENICIAN: ו- (passim).

ARAMAIC: Two conjunctions appeared in this dialect, ו- "and" (passim) and פ- "thus, therefore"<sup>231</sup> (Sf. II B 4,6; Br-Rkb 1:18).

SAMALIAN: Two conjunctions appeared in this dialect, ו- "and" (passim) and פ(א) "thus, therefore" (H 3.17, etc.; P 22). The meaning and function of these two conjunctions were identical to those of Old Aramaic.

AMMONITE: ו- (passim).

DEIR ALLA: ו- (passim).

MOABITE: ו- (passim).

EDOMITE: ו- (Ost. 2070 Rev. 3).<sup>232</sup>

HEBREW: ו- (passim).

The NWS dialects of the first millennium B.C.E. possessed two conjunctions, \**wa* "and" and \**pa* "thus, therefore." \**wa* occurred in all NWS dialects, as well as in all Semitic languages in general. \**pa* is a common West Semitic innovation.<sup>233</sup> Within the first-millennium NWS dialects, however, \**pa* is found only in Old Aramaic and Samalian. It was lost in Phoenician, Hebrew, and apparently in Ammonite, Deir Alla, Moabite, and Edomite as well. In these latter four dialects, however, the absence of \**pa* in the extant texts may be accidental.

#### 14. Negations: Nonexistence.

PHOENICIAN: No evidence.

ARAMAIC: ܐܠ (Br-Rkb 1:16).

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: 𐤀 [ʔên] (Mesha 24).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: 𐤀 [ʔayn], as in Silwan B 1, Lach. 4:5.7/8 (plus pronominal suffix),<sup>234</sup> and Arad 40:13/14 (partially restored; plus pronominal suffix). The word is attested only in the southern dialect; in the North, the pronunciation would have been \*[ʔên].<sup>235</sup>

Attestations of a term of nonexistence in these three NWS dialects suggest that the dialects can be divided into two groups. In Old Aramaic, the term ܐܠ was used, literally translated "there is not," composed of the negative [lā] + "there is."<sup>236</sup> In Moabite and Hebrew, another term was used [ʔên, ʔayn]. \*ʔayn, however, is not an exclusively shared lexical innovation, since it also appears in Ethiopic and Ugaritic.<sup>237</sup>

#### 15a. Particles: The *nota accusativi*.<sup>238</sup>

PHOENICIAN: ܐܝܬ, only in the Karatepe inscription during this period (Karatepe A I 3, III 3.14/15, etc.). The precise vocalization of this particle is unknown.

ARAMAIC: ܐܝܬ (Zkr B 5.16, etc.; Sf. I B 32, II C 5.5, etc.).

SAMALIAN: 𐤀 (H 28), only with possessive suffix. If this particle is related to Aramaic [lʷāt] "toward" and [kʷāt] "as, like,"<sup>239</sup> the pronunciation of the Samalian particle may have been \*[wāt].

AMMONITE: No evidence. Although van Selms<sup>240</sup> believed he isolated a *nota accusativi* -ת in Cit. 5, the interpretation of the passage is too uncertain to provide evidence for the existence of this particle.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: תא (Mesha 5.6.7, etc.). The vocalization of the Moabite particle is unknown. The absence of a medial *yodh*, however, separates the form of the Moabite particle from its Phoenician-Aramaic counterpart.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: תא, with both nominal (e.g., Arad 16:4, 24:16, etc.) and pronominal objects (תא + suffix, as in Arad 24:13; Lach. 3:12, 12:4 [partially restored], etc.).<sup>241</sup>

The forms of the *nota accusativi* in NWS are composed of pronominal suffix + *\*ât*.<sup>242</sup> Phoenician-Aramaic תא is derived from *\*iya* + *\*ât*; cf. Akk. *yāti* and Arabic [ʿiyā-]. Samalian תא developed from *\*hu* + *\*ât* > *\*huât* (cf. Ugaritic *hwt*) > *\*uât* > [wât]. Hebrew and Moabite, however, show a shared innovation. The old תא lost intervocalic *yodh*, producing תא.<sup>243</sup>

## 15b. The conditional particles.

BYBLIAN: אם (Ahirom 2), cognate either to Hebrew אם < איל or אם<sup>244</sup> or to EA *allū*.<sup>245</sup> Another conditional particle, אם, is attested in Bronze Spat. 3;<sup>246</sup> in that context, אם may have functioned as an oath particle.<sup>247</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: אם (e.g., Karatepe A III 12.14.17, etc.).

ARAMAIC: הן (e.g., Sf. I B 28.31, etc.; Nerab 1:11).

SAMALIAN: There appear to have been two conditional particles in Samalian. One particle, אם, introduced verbal protases, whether the verb were imperfective (H 20 [?]) or perfective (H 29). The other conditional particle, הן, introduced nominal protases (H 30.31.31 [?]). The particle הן, however, in הן.אם.שמת "now if I put" (H 29), is not a conditional particle, comparable to Aramaic [hen].<sup>248</sup> but is the interjection "behold" used to reinforce the condition.<sup>249</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: הן (II 10.10).

MOABITE: No evidence. The particle הן in הן.עשתי (Kerak frag. 3) is not the conditional "if" but the interjection "behold."<sup>250</sup>

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Two conditional particles were employed in epigraphic Hebrew.  $\text{אם}$  was followed by a perfect verb (e.g., Yavneh-Yam 1:11) or nominal predicate (e.g., Arad 2:7, 21:8 [?]). The other particle,  $\text{הן}$ , is found with perfect verbs (e.g., Arad 21:3, 40:9). The two particles, then, appeared in identical contexts and were probably semantically and grammatically equivalent.

The NWS dialects employed several conditional particles.<sup>251</sup> Some used the particle  $\text{אם}$ —Old Byblian (one possibility), standard Phoenician, Samalian (one possibility), and Hebrew (one possibility). Others used  $\text{הן}$ —Old Aramaic, Samalian (one possibility, with suffixed  $\text{ן}$ ), the Deir Alla dialect, and Hebrew (one possibility). Old Byblian alone used a second particle,  $\text{אל}$ , which did not spread to other NWS dialects. The distribution of  $\text{אם}$  and  $\text{הן}$  here and throughout the Semitic languages does not yield any classificatory scheme. The particle  $\text{אל}$ , however, may have been a Phoenician innovation.

Two conditional particles appeared in a single dialect. In Samalian, there appears to have been a syntactic and grammatical distinction between  $\text{אם}$  and  $\text{הן}$ . In Hebrew, both particles interchanged freely. In Old Byblian, however, the evidence is insufficient to determine the grammatical relationship between  $\text{אל}$  and  $\text{אם}$ .

### 15c. The directive-terminative *he*.

PHOENICIAN: Not attested (?).

ARAMAIC: Not attested.

SAMALIAN: Not attested.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: Not attested. While Hackett<sup>252</sup> tentatively identified three examples of this "adverbial *h*," none is certain. The final *he* in  $\text{לילה}$  "night" (I 1), whatever its origin,<sup>253</sup> was part of the word itself; cf. the same word in Aramaic, Moabite, and Samalian (with a different form), dialects which lacked the terminative *he*. The final *he* in  $\text{שמה}$  "there, thither" (II 13.14) is a reflex of the old adverbial *\*-at*, as in Ugaritic  $\text{tmt}$  "there, thither."<sup>254</sup> Finally, the form and meaning of  $\text{אחראה}$  "in the future (?)" (I 2) are uncertain.<sup>255</sup> There is no unambiguous example of this particle in the Deir Alla dialect.

MOABITE: Not attested (?).

EDOMITE: No evidence.



HEBREW: This particle appears in, for example, מצרימה "toward Egypt" (Lach. 3:16), העירה "toward the city" (Lach. 4:7, 18:2), and בתה "toward the house" (Arad 17:2).

The terminative *he* is an old NWS suffix, found already in Ugaritic.<sup>256</sup> According to the present evidence, Hebrew alone preserved this particle. Yet its absence from other NWS dialects, particularly from the extant Phoenician and Moabite texts, may be coincidental.

### 15d. The precative *lamedh*.

PHOENICIAN: Not attested. Although Albright<sup>257</sup> and others<sup>258</sup> have identified the precative *lamedh* in לפתח [רחמי] "may her womb be opened" (Arsl.T. 1:22–24), the correct reading of the text is אל יפתח "let it not be opened."<sup>259</sup> If the latter reading is followed, the text conforms to regular Phoenician grammatical usage,<sup>260</sup> and the only instance of the precative *lamedh* in this dialect is removed.

ARAMAIC: The precative *lamedh* appears only in the Tell Fekh. text, as for example להי "may he be" (l. 12), ללקו "may they gather" (l. 22), לשם "may he put" (l. 11), etc.<sup>261</sup> Its appearance only in the eastern Syro-Palestinian area—i.e. Fekheriyeh, and the Mesopotamian Assur ostrakon—suggests an early isogloss between eastern and western Old Aramaic. As in Old Aramaic, the precative *lamedh* did not appear in later, western Aramaic dialects either.<sup>262</sup>

SAMALIAN: The precative *lamedh* regularly appeared in this dialect, as for example in למנע "may he prevent" (H 24), לתגמרו "may they be destroyed" (H 30), לכחשנה "may they pound her" (H 31), etc.

AMMONITE: No evidence. In Sir. 6, however, the jussive verbs, יגל וישמח "may he rejoice and be happy," lack the precative *lamedh*. This passage may indicate that in Ammonite the precative *lamedh* did not occur. The evidence, however, is meager.

DEIR ALLA: Not attested.

MOABITE: Not attested.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Not attested.

The distribution of the precative *lamedh* between East and West Semitic indicates that it was common to the entire Semitic language group.<sup>263</sup> Within first-millennium NWS, it was absent from all but

two dialects. It appeared only in Samalian and Fekheriyeh (= eastern?) Aramaic. In later times, this feature became characteristic of eastern Aramaic as a dialect group.<sup>264</sup>

### 16a. Verbal conjugations: The *t*-stem of the *qal*.

BYBLIAN: Gt (infixed *t*-), as in תחתק "may it be removed" (Ahirom 2) and תהתך "may it be overturned" (Ahirom 2).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: No evidence. Either the *t*-stem of the *qal* is not attested due to the paucity of Phoenician texts, or the *N*-stem had replaced the passive *t*-stem.

ARAMAIC: Two *t*-stems of the *peal* are attested in Old Aramaic. In most Aramaic-speaking communities, it was the tG (prefixed *t*-), as in יתחזה "it can be seen" (Sf. I A 28), יתשמע "it can be heard" (Sf. I A 29), and יתאחו "it is closed" (Nerab 2:4); the tG survived into later Aramaic dialects.<sup>265</sup> In the Aramaic speech form of Tell Fekheriyeh, however, there is one clear example of the Gt (יגתור "may it be cut off" [Fekh. 23]).<sup>266</sup> And in Sf. I C 24/25—ואל<sup>267</sup> ירתש"ה "may a name not be acquired by him"—Rosenthal<sup>268</sup> has tentatively identified another example of the Gt.<sup>269</sup> This conjugation is not attested in any other Aramaic dialect.

SAMALIAN: The only possible evidence of this conjugation is the form יתמר ב "it is said in . . ." (H 10) which, according to some,<sup>270</sup> is derived from יתאמר\*. The *aleph* would have assimilated to the preceding *taw*, as occurs in various forms in Aramaic.<sup>271</sup> Yet such an uncertain example does not constitute proof that the tG stem appeared in Samalian. Additional evidence is needed in order to pronounce judgment.

AMMONITE: No evidence. Cross<sup>272</sup> analyzed the form תשתע "you are feared" (Cit. 6) as a Gt conjugation of \*š<sup>h</sup>y "to gaze; offer." The same form occurs in Ugaritic, where š<sup>h</sup> means "to fear," and where the Gt conjugation is frequently found. Yet a *qal* conjugation of this verb is found as שתע "to fear" in Hebrew, Phoenician, and probably in Ugaritic as well; cf. especially the form נשתעם "feared" in Karatepe A II 4, where the triradical root \*š<sup>h</sup> takes the *niphal* conjugation. Thus, this form is not a Gt.<sup>273</sup> A Gt conjugation in Ammonite remains unproven.

DEIR ALLA: tG (?), if יתמלך "he will seek advice" (II 9) is the passive of the simple conjugation.<sup>274</sup> Two other examples of the tG, cited by Hofstijzer<sup>275</sup>—אתנתק "I am/he was pulled down (?)" (Vc 4)

and אתיחדו "they have gathered" (I 5)—are most probably tD conjugations.<sup>276</sup> Finally, the form יתעץ "he will seek counsel" (II 9) is morphologically uncertain. If the form is tD of \*y<sup>c</sup>ṣ, the first radical is missing; the derivation of this form from a middle weak root<sup>277</sup> is not convincing since it presents morphological difficulties.<sup>278</sup> The same obstacle would be apparent if the stem were tG (יתיעץ\*) or Gt (ייתיעץ\*). This form then, remains unexplained. There is only one possible example of a *t*-stem of the simple conjugation in the Deir Alla dialect.

MOABITE: Gt, as in ואלתתם "and I fought" (Mesha II.15), הלתתם "fight!" (Mesha 32), and בהלתתמה "when he fought" (Mesha 19).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: There is no trace of a *t*-stem of the *qal* in epigraphic Hebrew. A few forms in BH reflect an old use of the *t*-stem of the *qal*,<sup>279</sup> but this usage disappeared from the language very early.

The NWS dialects formed a *t*-stem of the simple conjugation in two ways. The *t* was either infixed to the root, as in Old Byblian, Sfire- (?) and Fekheriyeh-Aramaic, and in Moabite. The Gt also appears in Arabic and ESA.<sup>280</sup> Or the *t* was prefixed to the root, on analogy with the prefixed *t* of the *D*-stem. The tG conjugation was found in most Old Aramaic dialects, and possibly in Samalian and the Deir Alla dialect as well. It is unclear whether standard Phoenician and Ammonite once possessed either a tG or Gt stem which had died out by the time of the extant texts, or whether future excavations will produce a text with such a form. In either case, the present evidence points to an emerging dialectal polarity between those dialects with analogical tG formations and those with Gt conjugations, i.e. between Aramaic and Canaanite dialects. Although the Gt appeared at Tell Fekheriyeh, and possibly at Sfire, it did not survive into later Aramaic dialects.

## 16b. The presence/absence of the *N*-stem.

BYBLIAN: No evidence. The presence of a Gt passive conjugation, however, may suggest that one function of the *niphal*, that of the *qal* passive, was usurped by the Gt; thus the *niphal* may have died out of the dialect, as in Aramaic. Or, the few extant Byblian texts have simply not preserved this conjugation; that a *niphal* and Gt conjugation can coexist is proven by Ugaritic and Akkadian,

where both conjugations were used fully. The absence of a *niphal* in the extant Byblian texts, then, may be either significant or accidental.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: The *niphal* conjugation was present in this dialect, as in נשתעם "feared" (Karatepe A II 4) and the later form נגזלת "I was stolen" (Eshmunazor 2.12).

ARAMAIC: As in other Aramaic dialects, there was no *niphal* conjugation in Old Aramaic.<sup>281</sup>

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: A *niphal* conjugation may appear in Cit. 6. השתעו בך אלם "you are feared among the gods."<sup>282</sup> The evidence is contextual since there is no example of a *niphal* perfect verbal form.

Other suggested examples of *niphal* forms in Ammonite are less convincing. Krahmalkov<sup>283</sup> interpreted אשתח (Sir. 5) as a *niphal* of the root \*šḥt and translated "shall I be destroyed?" Instead, the form is to be interpreted, with most commentators,<sup>284</sup> as a noun "cistern" comparable to Moabite אשח "cistern" (Mesha 9.23 [partially restored]); this latter interpretation better fits the context of the inscription. Albright<sup>285</sup> found a *niphal* in ילחם "it shall fight" (Cit. 4). But new readings of this passage show that these consonants do not appear and therefore that the form itself does not exist.<sup>286</sup> The only possible example of the *niphal* in Ammonite, then, is השתעו "you are feared" in Cit. 6.

DEIR ALLA: The *niphal* conjugation is present in this dialect, as for example in גנח "it moans" (II 12.12).

MOABITE: No evidence. That the Moabite form הלחם "to fight" (Mesha 11, etc.) corresponds to BH נלחם suggests that either the *niphal* conjugation was lost to the Gt (as in Aramaic) or the function of the Gt and *niphal* had merged.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The *niphal* conjugation was present in this dialect, as for example in נשלחו<sup>287</sup> "they were sent" (Arad 13:4) and השמר "be on guard!" (Lach. 3:21).

The *N*-stem is a common Semitic conjugation.<sup>288</sup> In first-millennium NWS, it was preserved in standard Phoenician, Ammonite (?), the Deir Alla dialect, and Hebrew. It died out in Aramaic, and possibly in Byblian and Moabite too. Whether Samalian and Edomite preserved the *niphal* or not is unknown.

## 16c. The causative prefix.

BYBLIAN: No evidence. Friedrich and Rölli<sup>289</sup> claimed that the Byblian causative was *yiphil*, like that of standard Phoenician. Yet the examples which they cited, יארך "may they make long" (Yehimilk 3) and תארך "may she make long" (Elibaal 2; Shiptibaal 4), may be derived from a causative *hiphil* as well;<sup>290</sup> cf. for example BH ישמד "he will annihilate" < \*יהשמד. Garbini<sup>291</sup> adduced one example of a *hiphil* causative in Byblian. Yet his example, העדיה "you/she stripped bare" (Byblos 13:2), is an incorrect reading. One should read, with Cross,<sup>292</sup> העצמי הענות "my mouldering bones;" the prefixed *he* is the definite article. Despite this lack of evidence, however, it is possible that the causative prefix was *he*, as in the third person sing. pronominal suffix.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: -י, as in ירחב ארך "I widened" (Karatepe A I 4). Cf. the third person sing. possessive/objective suffix in -י (following vowels).

ARAMAIC: -ה, as in המלכני "he made me king" (Zkr A 3), יהסכר "he will hand over" (Sf. III 3), and הרשבני "they made me sit" (Br-Rkb 1:5). There are no examples of an *aphel* causative in Old Aramaic.<sup>293</sup>

SAMALIAN: -ה, as in הושבת "I settled" (H 19) and היטבה "he made it better" (P 9).

AMMONITE: -ה, as inferred from the PN הצלאל (Sir. 2), derived from \**nsl*, with prefixed causative *he*.

DEIR ALLA: -ה, as in הקרקת "it chased" (I 15).<sup>294</sup>

MOABITE: -ה, as in החרמתה "I consecrated it" (Mesha 17), השעני "he saved me" (Mesha 4), and הראני "he made me see" (Mesha 4).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: -ה, as for example הכו "they struck" (Shiloah 4) and והבקדם "and he will hand them over" (Arad 24:14/15).

Most first-millennium NWS dialects exhibit the causative prefix *he*, i.e. Aramaic, Samalian, Ammonite, Deir Alla, Moabite, Hebrew, and possibly Byblian. In standard Phoenician, however, this *he* became -י; cf. the third person sing. suffixes [yūī, yā] < \**-ihū*, \**-ihā*.<sup>295</sup> All these dialects, then, preserved the identical morpheme, although its phonetic shape had changed in standard Phoenician.

17a. The strong verb: Inflection of the perfect.  
The first person singular.

PHOENICIAN: ת- [tī], as in פִּעַלְתָּ [paʿaltī] ‘‘I did’’ (Kilamu 4) and שִׁבַּרְתָּ [šibba/irti] ‘‘I smashed’’ (Karatepe A I 8), etc. For the final vowel [ī], cf. Punic כַּעַתְבִּי ‘‘I wrote’’ (KAI 145:6) and the suffixed form עֲנַתְּם ‘‘I subdued them’’ (Karatepe A I 20) (instead of עֲנַתְּם\*).

In Arsl.T. 2:7, the form נִעַלְתָּ ‘‘I have locked’’ appears. Since this text regularly represents final long vowels,<sup>296</sup> the expected form here should have been נִעַלְתִּי\*. A variety of possibilities may explain this particular form. The spelling may have been historical, following the (contemporaneous) standard Phoenician model of the nonrepresentation of final vowels. Alternatively, the affix is to be vocalized according to the Aramaic pattern, -t(u/i), in which case, this morpheme was borrowed from the mutually intelligible Aramaic dialect spoken at Arslan Tash. Or, perhaps the form is not to be interpreted as ‘‘I have locked’’ but is another form altogether, such as a construct noun. Since, however, this text regularly does represent final (long) vowels, one of the latter two explanations is more probable than the assumption of a historical spelling.

ARAMAIC: ת- [t, tu/i],<sup>297</sup> as in כָּתַבְתָּ [katabt(u/i)] ‘‘I have written’’ (Sf. I C 2), אָחַזְתָּ [ʾaḥaḏt(u/i)] ‘‘I seized’’ (Br-Rkb 1:11), and שָׁמַתָּ [šāmt(u/i)] ‘‘I erected’’ (Zkr B 13). Had a final long vowel been part of this morpheme, it would have been represented in the orthography.<sup>298</sup> But since final short vowels were not represented, the suffix ת- does not necessarily indicate vowellessness.<sup>299</sup> Its pronunciation was either [t], as in later Aramaic dialects, [tu] as in Arabic, or [ti] as in Amorite.

SAMALIAN: ת- [t, tu/i], as in יִשַׁבְתָּ [yaṭ/šabt(u/i)] ‘‘I sat’’ (H 8), שָׁמַתָּ [šāmt(u/i)] ‘‘I put’’ (H 29; P 20), and הָקַמְתָּ [haqimt(u/i)] ‘‘I erected’’ (H 1.14 [partially restored]). A connecting vowel did not join the verbal base and personal suffix. If such a vowel existed, the long vowel in הָקַמְתָּ would have stood in an open syllable, \**ha-qī-mVt*; consequently, \**ī* would have been represented in the orthography.<sup>300</sup> Since \**ī* was not represented, it must have stood in a closed syllable. Thus ת- was not preceded by a vowel. It is also doubtful that a long vowel followed [t] since final long vowels were generally indicated in the orthography.<sup>301</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: תי- [tī], as in מלכתי [malaktī] "I ruled" (Mesha 2/3, 28/29 [partially restored]), יספתי [yasaptī] "I added" (Mesha 29), etc.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: תי- [tī], as in קראתי [qārā(ʔ)tī] "I read" (Lach. 3:12; 12:4 [partially restored]), מלכתי [mālaktī] "I ruled" (Arad 88:1), etc.

Another form of this suffix may have been ת- [tī (?)], found in שלחתי "I send" (Mur 17 A 1) and ברכת "I bless" (Ajrud). The absence of final *yodh* is surprising. Either ת- was pronounced [tī], so that the spelling without *yodh* is archaic. Alternatively, the morpheme could have been pronounced differently in these two communities than in most others. In view of the unanimity of the Masoretic vocalization [tī], however, the former explanation is preferable.

According to all available evidence, the Proto-West Semitic first person sing. perfect suffix was *\*-tū*.<sup>302</sup> In Phoenician, Moabite, and Hebrew, the first person sing. possessive suffix *\*ī* was transferred to *\*-tū*, producing [tī]. In Old Aramaic and Samalian, the old suffix *\*-tū* was retained, shortened to [t], or became [ti] by analogy. Finally, in the Phoenician dialect of Arslan Tash, the suffix might have been pronounced [t(u/i)]. If this interpretation is correct, the Arslan Tash form reflects the penetration of Aramaic into the Phoenician-speaking community; cf. the dual/masc. plural morpheme ַ- in Arslan Tash-Phoenician.

### 17b. The third person masculine singular.

BYBLIAN: [qaʔala], as in פעל [paʕala] "he made" (Ahirom 1; Eli-baal 1) and בני [banaya] "he built" (Yehimilk 1; Shiptibaal 1), etc. The preservation of the final weak radical in the orthography indicates that the original, final short [a] of the perfect had not been lost in early Byblian.<sup>303</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: [qaʔal],<sup>304</sup> as in מלך [malak] "he ruled" (Kilamu 2), פעל [paʕal] "he accomplished" (Kilamu 3.3.4), etc.

ARAMAIC: [qatal], as in גזר [gazar] "he cut" (Sf. I A 7), נזר [naʕar] "he vowed" (Br-Hdd 4), etc. Unlike later Aramaic dialects, the pretonic short vowel in an open syllable had not been reduced in this early period.<sup>305</sup>

SAMALIAN: [qatal (?)], as in הרג [harag (?)] "he killed" (P 3.3.7), אכל [ʾakal (?)] "it ate" (H 9), etc. As in Old Aramaic, the pretonic short vowel in an open syllable was not lost.<sup>306</sup>

AMMONITE: [qaṭāl], as in נתן "he gave" (Hesh. Ost. 4:6); cf. בנה "he built" (Cit. 1). It is unclear whether the base form \**qaṭal* was retained or whether the second *a* underwent stress-lengthening to \**qaṭāl*.<sup>307</sup>

DEIR ALLA: [(?)]; cf. אתה "he came" (II 14), etc.

MOABITE: [qaṭāl], as in מלך [malāk] "he ruled" (Mesha 2), אמר [ʾamār] "he said" (Mesha 6), etc.<sup>308</sup>

EDOMITE: [qaṭāl] (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 7).

HEBREW: [qāṭal], as in ידע [yādaʿ] "he knew" (Arad 40:13), נתן [nātan] "he gave" (Arad 17:8), etc. The pretonic short vowel characteristically lengthened in Hebrew.

All forms of the third person masc. sing. perfect *qal* are derived from \**qatala*;<sup>309</sup> all changes were, according to the present evidence, phonetic. Old Byblian preserved this old form [qaṭala]. Standard Phoenician, Old Aramaic, Samalian, and Hebrew (with pretonic vowel lengthening) preserved the old form as well, except that the final short [a] was lost, producing \**qaṭal*. Finally, the vocalization of this verbal form in Ammonite, Moabite, and Edomite was either \*[qaṭal] (= standard Phoenician, Aramaic, and Samalian) or \*[qaṭāl]. All forms of this verb, then, were phonetic variants of a single base.

### 17c. The third person feminine singular ending.

BYBLIAN: No evidence from this period. In later Byblian texts, the ending was -ʾ [ā]<sup>310</sup> (see Chapter 2, no. 18b).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: -ʾ [ā] (see Chapter 2, no. 18b).

ARAMAIC: -t [at] (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 18b).

SAMALIAN: -t [at] (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 18b).

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: -t [at] (see examples in Chapter 2, no. 18b).

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: \*[ā], as inferred from the vocalization of the Masoretic text; there is, at present, no example of this verbal form in a strong verb.



Two endings of the third person fem. sing. perfect are attested in the NWS dialects. The old ending [at] was preserved in Aramaic, Samalian, and Deir Alla. A second form, in which \*-at had been replaced by [ā], is found in standard Phoenician, Hebrew, and later Byblian. This replacement may have occurred independently in the dialects (cf. the correspondences of \*-at) or may have spread by mutual contact.<sup>311</sup>

### 18a. The endings of the imperfect: The second person masculine plural (indicative and jussive).

PHOENICIAN: No evidence.

ARAMAIC: Depending upon the "mood" of the verb, there were two forms of this ending in Aramaic.<sup>312</sup> The indicative mood ended with ך- [ūn], as in תשׁלמן [תשׁלמן] "you fulfill" (Sf. I B 24); cf. the final weak form תאן [תאן]<sup>313</sup> "you will come" (Sf. I B 32). The volitive mood ended with ך- [ū];<sup>314</sup> cf. the final weak form תפנו "do (not) pay attention" (Sf. III 7).<sup>315</sup> Thus the different endings ך- and ך- reflected a morphological difference in the verb itself.

SAMALIAN: ך- [ū], as in תהרגו "you kill(ed)" (P 5). The ending [ū] appeared regardless of the mood of the verb.<sup>316</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: ך- [ū], as in the final weak form תעשו "you will do" (Lach. 6:9).

### 18b. The third person masculine plural (indicative and jussive).

BYBLIAN: No evidence.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: ~~ם~~ [ū], as in יתלן [yitlōn(i)nū]<sup>317</sup> "they murmured" (Kilamu 10)<sup>318</sup> and יכבד "may they honor" (Kilamu 14.15). There was no distinction between the ending of the indicative vs. jussive verb;<sup>319</sup> both ended in [ū].

ARAMAIC: Like the forms of the second person masculine plural, the indicative verb ended in ך- [ūn] (e.g., ימלך "they will rule" [Sf. I B 22], ירץ "they will guard" [Sf. I B 8], etc.).<sup>320</sup> whereas the volitive mood ended in ך- [ū] (e.g., יתפכו "may they overturn" [Sf.

I C 21], יצרו "may they guard" [Sf. I C 15], ללקטו "may they gather" [Fekh. 22], etc.).<sup>321</sup> The two different endings reflected, then, two different moods of the verb.

SAMALIAN: י- [ū], as in יתנו "they give" (H 4), יקחו "they take" (H 12), and יתגמרו "may they be destroyed" (H 30) < יתגמרו + ל\*.

AMMONITE: י- [ūn], in ימתן "they will die" (Cit. 2) and possibly ילן "they will lodge" (Cit. 4).<sup>322</sup> Since these are the only examples of the third person masc. plural imperfect in Ammonite, and since there are no examples of the second person masc. plural imperfect in this dialect, it is unclear whether Ammonite preserved the distinction between indicative and volitive verbs, as in Old Aramaic, or whether the ending [ūn] was frozen and used for both moods. The context of Cit. 2 and 4, although broken, suggests that the mood was not volitive but indicative.

DEIR ALLA: י- [ū], as in יאמרו "and they said" (I 2); cf. the final weak form יו "they will see" (II 13).<sup>323</sup> There is no evidence of the ending [ūn] in this dialect.<sup>324</sup>

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: י- [ū], as in יתנו "(may?) they give" (Ajrud), וילכו "and they flowed" (Shiloah 4), etc.

The endings of the second and third person masc. plural imperfect were identical. On the basis of the present evidence, the formal distinction between indicative and volitive moods was preserved only in Old Aramaic, represented by [ūn] and [ū] respectively. Standard Phoenician, Samalian, Deir Alla, and Hebrew employed [ū] in both functions. In Ammonite, only an indicative [ūn] is attested; it is unknown whether the corresponding jussive ended with [ū], as in Old Aramaic, or the identical [ūn]. In any case, the old indicative \*-ūn survived in Old Aramaic and Ammonite. In standard Phoenician, Samalian, Deir Alla, and Hebrew, the indicative \*-ūn had been replaced by the old jussive ending \*-ū.

### 18c. The third person feminine plural.

PHOENICIAN: No evidence.

ARAMAIC: י- → [y . . . ān], in both indicative (e.g., ידינקן "they will nurse" [Sf. I A 22, etc.], ימשחן "they anoint" [Sf. I A 21],

etc.) and volitive moods (e.g., יִהְרֹגן "may they kill" [Sf. I A 24],<sup>325</sup> לְהִנָּקן "may they nurse" [Fekh. 20.20.21] < \**li-y<sup>h</sup>hayn(a)qàn*, etc.).

SAMALIAN: י-י- [y . . . ān], as in לְכַתְּשָׁנָה "may they pound her" (H 31). Like Old Aramaic, then, the third person fem. plural imperfect began with *yodh* and ended with [ān]. Cf., possibly, יִרְ[ ] in H 31.<sup>326</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: י-ת-, as in תִּצְמָקן "they will wither (?)" (Xd 2) and תִּטְפָן "they drip (?)" (II 35.36). These passages, however, are very fragmentary.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: There is no epigraphic attestation of this verbal form. The form attested in BH, however, resembles that of the Deir Alla dialect, [tiqōlnā].

Two forms of the third person fem. plural imperfect competed in the NWS dialects.<sup>327</sup> The older form, with prefixed *yodh*, is attested in Old Aramaic and Samalian. Another form, however, arose in NWS and sporadically throughout the Semitic languages; the third person fem. plural imperfect gained a prefixed *taw* on analogy with its fem. sing. counterpart. In NWS, this analogy occurred in the Deir Alla dialect, and possibly epigraphic Hebrew as well. Since the *t* prefix was an analogical formation, it is of no value for classification.<sup>328</sup>

### 19a. The infinitive: The *qal* infinitive construct.<sup>329</sup>

PHOENICIAN: לִקְטַל \**[liqtōl]*, as inferred from the later forms לִפְעַל "to make" (Yehawmilk 11) and לִפְעַל "to make" (Poen. 935). The form of the third person sing. suffix attached to the infinitive, י-, suggests that a (genitive?) vowel connected the verb and suffix.<sup>330</sup>

ARAMAIC: Two forms of the inf. construct appeared in Old Aramaic. לִקְחַל [(?) ] appeared in, for example, לְשַׁבֵּן "to strengthen" (Sf. I B 32.32). Another form, לִמְקַחַל, is found in Fekh. (e.g., לְמַלְקַח "to take" [Il. 9/10] and לְמַלְדַּח "to remove" [I. 9]) and the Adon letter (e.g., לְמַשְׁלַח "to send" [I. 7]); this \**miqtal* infinitive may also appear in Sf. I B 34, but the reading of the form is not certain.<sup>331</sup>

SAMALIAN: לִקְחַל [(?) ], as in לֹאכַל "to eat" (H 23), and possibly לִנְצַב "to erect" (H 10).<sup>332</sup> In final weak verbs, the vocalization of

this infinitive depended upon its construction in the sentence; the inf. bound to a following noun was vocalized one way, whereas the unbound inf. was vocalized another.<sup>333</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: לקטל [(?)], as in לחלק "to perish" (II 11).

MOABITE: לקטל\* [(?)]. Cf. the פ"י infinitive לספת "to add" (Mesha 21).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: לקטל [liqṭōl], as in לשלח "to send" (Arad 40:14), etc.

The infinitive construct with prefixed *lamedh* took two consonantal shapes in NWS. The old form, לקטל, appeared in all dialects for which there is evidence of the form. A new *\*miqṭal* infinitive appeared in the Fekh. text, Adon letter, and possibly in the Sfire inscription.<sup>334</sup> This latter form became the standard infinitive form of the *peal* in the later Aramaic dialects.

Whereas the *\*miqṭal* infinitive was characteristic of Aramaic, standard Phoenician and Samalian each displayed a unique feature in the form of the *qal* inf. construct. In standard Phoenician, the inf. ended in [i] of the genitive case, as for example לשבתנם "that they may dwell" (Karatepe A I 17) vs. ישבם "(I) made them settle" (Karatepe A I 20).<sup>335</sup> In Samalian, the pronunciation of the bound inf. construct differed from that of the unbound inf. construct, at least in final weak verbs.

Thus, the infinitive form *l + qṭl* occurred in all attested NWS dialects. The form *\*miqṭal* was an innovation shared by a few Aramaic-speaking communities. The retention of a vowel between verb and suffix appeared only in standard Phoenician. And the difference between bound and unbound infinitives isolated Samalian from the other NWS dialects.

## 19b. The *D-* and causative infinitive construct.

PHOENICIAN: There were no preformatives or suffixes on these derived infinitives, as for example in the later forms לשלם "to pay back" (KA I 60:7) and לשבת "to make cease" (CIS I 5510:3).

ARAMAIC: Two forms are attested in Old Aramaic. At Tell Fekheriyeh, the inf. construct had the same consonantal skeleton as in Phoenician and Hebrew (e.g., לכבר "to multiply" [I. 8],<sup>336</sup> and possibly לשלם "for the well-being" [II. 8.8.8]); the vocalization of the

Fekh. forms is unknown.<sup>337</sup> At Sfire, the derived inf. construct ended in *-t*, as for example לחבותהם "to drive them out" (Sf. II B 7) and להמתת עקר "to kill my offspring" (Sf. III 16). It is unclear whether the vocalization of this ending was [ūt], as in Syriac, Jewish Aramaic, etc., or [at] as in biblical Aramaic (Dan. 5:12; Ezr. 4:22).<sup>338</sup> The ending [ūt], however, is the more common among the Aramaic dialects.

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: There were no preformatives or suffixes on these derived infinitives, as for example לדבר\* "to speak" (BH) and להעיד "to warn" (Arad 24:18). The form is that of the imperative + prefixed *lamedh*.

The first-millennium NWS dialects can be divided into two groups on the basis of the form of the *D*- and causative inf. construct with prefixed *lamedh*. The present evidence indicates that the common form was *l* + verbal root. This infinitive appeared in Phoenician, Fekh.-Aramaic, and Hebrew, although the pronunciation may have differed from dialect to dialect. A deviation from this pattern appeared only in Sfire-Aramaic, where the inf. construct ended in *-t*. Thus the Old Aramaic dialect spoken at Sfire, and perhaps most Aramaic-speaking communities in Syria-Palestine, constituted a dialectal island in this respect.

## 20. The participle: The *qal* passive.

PHOENICIAN: No evidence.<sup>339</sup> הברך in Karatepe A I 1 is most likely a noun "official, steward."<sup>340</sup>

ARAMAIC: [qatīl], as inferred from the pronunciation of this form in later Aramaic dialects. The orthography in, for example, פתחה [patihā] "opened" (Sf. III 8/9), however, does not suggest any particular vocalization pattern.

SAMALIAN: [qatīl], as in קתילת [qatīlāt] "killed (women)" (P 8).

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence. The only form that may qualify as a *qal* passive participle, **חרס** (Mesha 27), is ambiguous. It may be a passive participle ("destroyed")<sup>341</sup> or a noun ("destruction").<sup>342</sup> In either case, the vocalization is unknown.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: [qāṭūl], as is evident from the *plene* writing in **ארר** [ʾārūr] "cursed" (Silwan B 2); cf. **ארר** "cursed" (Beit Lei; Nahal Yishai 1).<sup>343</sup>

According to the meager evidence, the *qal* passive participle was formed from two different bases in the first-millennium NWS dialects.<sup>344</sup> One base, *\*qatūl*, appeared in Hebrew (and Canaanite?; cf. EA<sup>345</sup>); this base also underlies the *qal* passive participle in Ethiopic and Arabic. The second base, *\*qatīl*, was found only in Aramaic and Samalian.<sup>346</sup> The distribution of these forms, then, suggests that *\*qatūl* was the older, and *\*qatīl* the more recent, *qal* passive participle. The vocalization of this participle in the other dialects is not known.

21a. **ישיב** verbs: The *qal* imperfect of **ישיב**\* "to sit, dwell" and **ידע**\* "to know."

PHOENICIAN: Forms such as **ישיב** "he will sit" (Kilamu 14) appear in these texts. The vocalization is not known, however.

ARAMAIC: [yattīb],<sup>347</sup> as in **ישיב** [yattīb] "he sits" (Sf. III 17). It is characteristic of the Aramaic dialects that the initial radical of **ישיב**\* and **ידע**\* was lost, and that the second radical was doubled; this doubling occurred in the imperfect, infinitive, and nominal derivatives.<sup>348</sup>

SAMALIAN: *\*[yattīb, yaššīb]*, as inferred from the nominal form **משב** "throne" (H 8.15, etc.).<sup>349</sup> Since the *yodh* was lost, the second radical was probably doubled (vs. **מרשב**\*, following BH); such doubling presumably occurred in the imperfect as well.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: The form **ישיב** "and he dwelt" is preserved in Mesha 8.19. Its vocalization is unknown.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: *\*[yēšeb, yēdaʿ]*, as inferred from the vocalization in BH.

In the Aramaic dialects, the imperfect, infinitive, and nominal derivatives of ישב\* "to sit, dwell" and ידע\* "to know" exhibit loss of the initial weak radical as well as doubling of the second radical. This doubling also occurred in Samalian. In Hebrew, gemination did not occur, but the prefixed vowel was lengthened. There is no evidence for the vocalization of these forms in the remaining NWS dialects.

## 21b. The *qal* infinitive construct ending.

PHOENICIAN: ת-, as in לדעת "to know" (Ahirom Graff. 1), לשבת "to dwell" (Karatepe A I 17), and לתת "to give" (Karatepe A III 4) < \*ytn.

ARAMAIC: Ø, as inferred from the later Aramaic dialects, as for example Syriac [(l<sup>p</sup>)mettab] "to sit" and Mandaic מיתאב "to sit."

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: ת-, as in לדעת "to know" (II 17).

MOABITE: ת-, as in לספת "to add" (Mesha 21).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: ת-, as in כצאתי "when I left" (Arad 16:3), as well as BH forms like לדעת "to know" and לשבת "to sit, dwell."

According to the available evidence, the *qal* inf. construct had two endings in NWS. It could end in Ø, as inferred for Old Aramaic. Or it could end in ת-, as in Phoenician dialects, the Deir Alla dialect, Moabite, and Hebrew. The dialectal status of Samalian, Ammonite, and Edomite, in this respect, is unknown.

## 22a. Middle weak verbs: The *qal* infinitive absolute.

PHOENICIAN: No evidence.

ARAMAIC: הוּם [hawām (?)] "distracted" in Nerab 2:6, and possibly [ מוּת ] "dying (?)" in Sf. I B 30.<sup>350</sup> In Aramaic, the original biradical root<sup>351</sup> had been restructured as a triradical root. The middle weak consonant was then treated as a strong radical letter.<sup>352</sup>

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: מוּת [(?) ] "dying" in Cit. 2. The original biradical root was not restructured according to the pattern of the strong, triradical root.

DEIR ALLA: If שם (I 6) is an inf. abs., "place!"<sup>353</sup> the original biradical root appears unmodified in this dialect.<sup>354</sup>

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: \*[qōm, sōm], as inferred from BH. The original biradical root was unmodified. The vowel [ō] may have arisen on analogy with [ō] of the strong inf. abs. [qātōl].<sup>355</sup>

The evidence of the first-millennium NWS dialects indicates two formations of middle weak *qal* infinitive absolutes. Ammonite, Hebrew, and (?) Deir Alla formed this inf. from the original biradical root [qV̄m, sV̄m]. In Old Aramaic, the biradical root was recast on the pattern of the strong, triradical root; [hawām, mawāt] arose on analogy to [qatāl]. This analogical formation was peculiar to Old Aramaic within the first-millennium NWS dialects.

## 22b. The formation of the *D*-stem.

BYBLIAN: No evidence.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: *pōlel*, as in יתלן<sup>356</sup> "they murmured" (Kilamu 10), with prefixed *t*-.

ARAMAIC: In Fekheriyeh, the form was *pālel*, as in כן "he erected" (Fekh. 10; cf. I. 11) < \**kwn*. Another form may have appeared in Sfire, *qayyim*<sup>357</sup>/*kawwin*, in which the middle radical was treated as a strong consonant and was doubled like all *paēl* verbs. Admittedly, the only example of this formation—יערן "they will be aroused (?)" (Sf. II B 4 [*pual*])<sup>358</sup>—is in a broken passage and can be interpreted differently.<sup>359</sup> Nevertheless, the *qayyim/kawwin* formation survives throughout all the Aramaic dialects. The *pālel*, however, largely died out.<sup>360</sup>

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: Evidence uncertain. The participle מסבב "surrounding" in Cit. 2 may be either a *pōlel* of a middle weak verb or a *D*-stem of an ע"ע root. Comparison with BH admits of either alternative.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence. Hackett<sup>361</sup> argued that יתעץ "he will seek counsel" (II 9) is a tD stem of \**ʿwṣ*. Yet if the root were middle weak, a tD stem would appear as יתעצץ\* (*pōlel*) or as יתעור\* (*kawwin*); these are the only two possible formations in NWS. Fur-



ther, \*<sup>c</sup>wš is a secondary root and appears only in BH. יתעץ cannot be a tD of \*<sup>c</sup>wš.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: \**pôlel*, as inferred from the form found in Masoretic Hebrew.

The formation of the *D*-stem of middle weak roots divides the NWS dialects into two groups. In Sfire-Aramaic (?), and all later Aramaic dialects, the form was *qayyim/kawwin*; as in Arabic, the middle weak radical was treated like a regular, strong consonant and underwent consonantal gemination characteristic of the *paēl*. In standard Phoenician, Fekh.-Aramaic, and Hebrew, the *D*-stem of middle weak verbs merged with the *pâlel/pôlel* conjugation.<sup>362</sup> The distribution of this merger—Ugaritic,<sup>363</sup> Phoenician, Hebrew, and Fekh.-Aramaic—suggests that it occurred sporadically throughout NWS;<sup>364</sup> its appearance in these dialects may be due, in part, to parallel, independent development.

### 23a. Final weak verbs: The *qal* first person singular perfect.

PHOENICIAN: [banêti], as in the late form בנת "I built" (Eshmunazor 4, etc.). Evidence of the second root vowel appears in the Punic form *caneth* "I acquired" (Poen. 932),<sup>365</sup> in which [ê] was contracted from \**ay*. The proto-form of this Phoenician verb, then, was \**banay-tî* > [banêti].<sup>366</sup>

ARAMAIC: [banayt(u/i)], as in בנית "I built" (Zkr B 10, etc.; Br-Rkb 1:20). Like Phoenician, then, the proto-form of this verb was \**banay-t(u/i)*.

SAMALIAN: (vocalization unknown), as in בנית "I built" (H 14), and probably היית "I became/let fall" (P 5). It is uncertain whether this form arose from \**banay* + \**t(u/i)* > \*[banayt(u/i)] or from \**baniy* + \**tu/i* > \*[banîtu/i]. The orthography of the Samalian texts admits of either possibility.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: (vocalization unknown),<sup>367</sup> as in בנתי "I built" (Mesha 21, etc.) and עשתי "I made" (Mesha 23, etc.). It is impossible to determine whether this form was pronounced [banêti], according to

the Phoenician-Aramaic model, or [banîti], according to the Hebrew model.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: [bānîti], as in נָקָתִי ‘‘I am guiltless’’ (Yavneh-Yam 1:11). The second root vowel [i] is inferred from the vocalization of this form in BH; the proto-form of this verb, then, was *\*baniy-tî* > (with contraction) [bānîti].<sup>368</sup> Cf. *ba-nî-tî* ‘‘I built’’ (EA 292:29 [Gezer]).<sup>369</sup>

The attested forms of the first person sing. perfect *qal* of final weak verbs divide the first-millennium NWS dialects into two groups. One group formed this perfect from *\*banay-*, as Old Aramaic [banayt(u/i)] and Phoenician [banêti]. The other group developed from *\*baniy-*, as Hebrew [bānîti]. The Hebrew form, then, differed from that of Phoenician and Aramaic by replacing the base *\*banay-* with *\*baniy-*; cf., however, the third person masc. sing. perfect *qal* בָּנָה [bānâ] ‘‘he built’’ < *\*banaya*. The dialectal affinities of Samalian, Ammonite, Deir Alla, Moabite, and Edomite, in this respect, are undetermined.

### 23b. The *qal* third person masculine singular perfect.<sup>370</sup>

BYBLIAN: [banaya], as in בָּנִי [banaya] ‘‘he built’’ (Yehimilk 1; Shiptibaal 1) and עָלָי [‘alaya] ‘‘he attacks’’ (Ahirom 2); final short vowels had not been lost at this time.<sup>371</sup> It is uncertain whether a distinction between *\*qatala* and *\*qatila* perfects was maintained in this dialect.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: [banō], as in חָזַד [ḥazō] ‘‘he saw’’ (Kilamu 11.11.12) < *\*banā* < *\*banaa* < *\*banaya*.

ARAMAIC: [banâ], as in אָתָא [‘atâ] ‘‘he came’’ (KA1 220:2) and comparable forms in later Aramaic dialects. The form is derived from *\*banaya* > (syncope of intervocalic *yodh*) [banâ].<sup>372</sup>

SAMALIAN: [banâ], as in קָן [qanâ] ‘‘he fashioned’’ (Kilamu Scept. 1) and שָׁתָא [šatâ (?)] ‘‘it drank’’ (H 9).

The vocalization of שָׁתָא, however, is uncertain. The final *aleph* may indicate [šatâ], since final *aleph* represents [ā] in אַ [ḏ/zā(?)] ‘‘this’’ (fem. sing.) (H 18) < *\*dā*.<sup>373</sup> But if אָתָא is derived from *\*šatiya*, as for example Syriac [‘eštî], final *aleph* may represent [ê, ē].<sup>374</sup> As in Old Byblian, then, it is uncertain whether a distinction between *\*qatala* and *\*qatila* final weak perfects was maintained in Samalian.

AMMONITE: [banō], as in בנה [banō] "he built" (Cit. 1).<sup>375</sup> Like standard Phoenician, [banō] developed from *\*banaya* > *\*banaa* > *\*baná* > [banō].

DEIR ALLA: [banâ (?)], as in אתה [ʔatâ (?)] "he came" (II 14).

MOABITE: [banâ (?)], as in בנה [banâ (?)] "he built" (Mesha 18).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: [bānā], as in עשה "he has done" (Arad 21:3; Lach. 4:3) and היה "it, he was" (Arad 111:5'; Yavneh-Yam 1:3; Shiloah 1.6). The vocalized forms in the Masoretic text support this vocalization.

The forms of the *qal* third person masc. sing. perfect of final weak verbs varied according to different phonetic changes in the individual dialects. Thus the old form *\*banaya* was found in Old Byblian. The form [banâ] < *\*banaya* occurred in Aramaic, Samalian, Deir Alla, Moabite, and Hebrew. And finally, a form [banō] < *\*banâ* occurred in the two dialects exhibiting the regular correspondence *\*á:[ô]*,<sup>376</sup> standard Phoenician and Ammonite. It is unknown whether the individual dialects distinguished between *\*qatala* and *\*qatila* perfects in these forms of the final weak verb.

### 23c. The *qal* third person masc. plural perfect.

PHOENICIAN: (vocalization uncertain). The Punic form בנא "they built" (KAI 101:1, etc.) may reflect either [banō] or [banū].<sup>377</sup> The vocalization of this form may correspond to either the Aramaic (with contraction) or Hebrew pattern.

ARAMAIC: [banaw], as in אתו [ʔataw] "they came" (Adon 4). The form in Old (and some later) Aramaic dialects developed from *\*banayū* > (syncope of intervocalic *yodh*) *\*banaū* > [banaw].

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: (vocalization uncertain), as in חזו "they saw" (I 14). On the basis of the orthography, this form could be vocalized either [ḥazaw] or [ḥazū].

If, however, שתי (I 10) were a third person masc. plural perfect, "they drank,"<sup>378</sup> this form would constitute evidence that the Deir Alla perfect were vocalized like Aramaic; i.e. the form would have been pronounced [šatiw] < *\*šatiyū*, similar to the later biblical Aramaic and Syriac forms. Yet this interpretation violates the ortho-

graphic pattern in these texts, for the *yodh* would constitute the only example of an internal *mater lectionis*. Alternatively, if the form were vocalized [šatiyū],<sup>379</sup> the final weak radical would have been preserved, contrary to all expectations; in all dialects, this consonantal *yodh* would have syncopated.<sup>380</sup> In light of these difficulties, it is preferable to follow Hofstijzer<sup>381</sup> in interpreting this form as a *qal* masc. plural imperative. It would therefore be vocalized [štayw].<sup>382</sup>

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: [bānū], as in מָנּוּ "they counted" (Ophel "ב" 2<sup>383</sup>); cf. הִכּוּ [hikkū] "they struck" (Shiloah 4). The pronunciation of this form is inferred from its vocalization in the Masoretic text. [bānū] probably developed from a monosyllabic base \**ban* + verbal suffix -*ū*.

The evidence for the *qal* third person masc. plural perfect of final weak verbs suggests two different vocalizations and developments. In Old Aramaic, this verb developed from \**banay* + -*ū*. In Hebrew, however, it developed from \**ban* + -*ū*; the final weak radical was lost and a new biradical base was created. The vocalization of the Phoenician and Deir Alla forms is, however, uncertain; there is no internal evidence which suggests either the Aramaic or Hebraic model. Finally, evidence for the vocalization of this form in Samalian, Ammonite, Moabite, and Edomite is lacking.

### 23d. The *qal* third person masculine/feminine singular imperfect (indicative and jussive).<sup>384</sup>

PHOENICIAN: יָלַ "he uncovers" (Ahirom 2) and יָמַ "he wipes out" (Karatepe A III 13), both indicative. There is no evidence that the form of the jussive differed from that of the indicative.<sup>385</sup> The vocalization of either form, however, is unknown.

ARAMAIC: The indicative ended in -ה- whereas the jussive ended in -י.<sup>386</sup> Examples of the indicative are יְהוּה "he will be" (Sf. II A 4) and יָאֵתָה "he will come" (Sf. I B 28, etc.). The jussive appears in תְּהוּי "may it be" (Sf. I A 25, etc.), תְּהוּי "may it become pregnant" (Sf. I A 21), and לְהוּי "may he be" (Fekh. 12 [with precativ *la-medh*]); cf. וַיַּעַנֵּי "and he answered me" (Zkr A 11).<sup>387</sup>

SAMALIAN: Both the indicative and jussive ended in -י, as in תִּלְעִי "it becomes weary" (H 32) and יִרְשִׁי "he allows" (H 27.28) (both

indicatives), and חשתי "may it drink" (H 22) and אל־ירקני "may he not be pleased" (H 22) (both jussives).

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: Like Old Aramaic, the indicative ended in ה- and the jussive in י-. For example, the indicative is attested in יבכה "he was weeping" (I 4); the jussive appears in אל[.תהני "do not remove" (I 7) and ירחי "may he be satisfied" (II 6).

There is no certain example of a ל־יה consecutive imperfect in the third person singular. For example, יועל (I 4) is not a final weak verb,<sup>388</sup> but an ע"ע root, "he entered."<sup>389</sup> Similarly, the form יחזו "he saw" (Ve 2)<sup>390</sup> is an uncertain reading on a small, plaster fragment. In any case, the expected form of this consecutive imperfect would be יחזיו\*.

MOABITE: A final weak indicative does not appear in the Moabite texts. The consecutive imperfect, however, appears frequently and always exhibits recessive accent and loss of the final vowel,<sup>391</sup> as for example יבן "and he built" (Mesha 10), ואעש "and I made" (Mesha 3.9), and וארא "and I saw" (Mesha 7).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The indicative ended in ה- whereas the jussive lost this final syllable. The indicative occurs in יקרה "it befalls" (Arad 24:16), and perhaps ארצה "I will accept" (Beit Lei A 1<sup>392</sup>). The jussive appears in יהי "that he may be" (Ajrud) and the causative ירא "may he let see" (Lach. 6:1); the final syllable, however, was lost only in certain persons and under certain syllabic conditions.<sup>393</sup> Whereas both Moabite and Hebrew formed the jussive by apocopation, this apocopation appears to have been more restricted in Hebrew than it was in Moabite.<sup>394</sup>

The indicative and jussive of final weak verbs divide the NWS dialects in two respects: First, the preservation or loss of distinction between indicative and jussive. This distinction was preserved in Old Aramaic, the Deir Alla dialect, Moabite, and Hebrew. In Phoenician and Samalian, however, this distinction was lost; one verbal form performed these two functions.<sup>395</sup> Second, the formal distinction between indicative and jussive. In Old Aramaic and the Deir Alla dialect, the indicative ended in ה-, and the jussive ended in י-; the Samalian ending י- may have been a survival of the jussive, now used in the indicative sense as well. In Hebrew (and Moabite?), the indicative had a final vowel, whereas the jussive lost this vowel and

showed a recessive accent; in Hebrew, however, the apocopation of these verbs was more restricted than in Moabite.

In terms of dialectal groups, the preservation of a morphological distinction between indicative and jussive unites Old Aramaic, the Deir Alla dialect, Moabite, and Hebrew as one group, as opposed to Phoenician and Samalian, in which this distinction was lost. There is no evidence, however, suggesting that Phoenician and Samalian jointly innovated. Rather, this loss of morphological distinction developed independently, as in later Aramaic dialects. With respect to the specific shape of the indicative and jussive, Old Aramaic and Deir Alla constitute one group, Moabite and Hebrew another. The dialectal status of Ammonite and Edomite, in these respects, is unknown.

### 23e. The second/third person masculine plural imperfect ending.<sup>396</sup>

BYBLIAN: No evidence.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: \*[ô(n), û(n)].<sup>397</sup> as inferred from the later form יִקְצוּ "they will cut down" (Eshmunazor 22). It is unclear whether the final vowel was [û], as in Hebrew, or [ô] < \*aw, as in Aramaic dialects.

ARAMAIC: [awn] < \*ayûn,<sup>398</sup> as in יִחְיֶיךָ "they will live" (Caquot 8<sup>399</sup>) and תָּבֹא[תָּךְ] "you will come" (Sf. I B 32).<sup>400</sup> Cf. the jussive תִּפְנֹו "do (not) pay attention" (Sf. III 7).

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: [-n].<sup>401</sup> There is no evidence for the vowel preceding final *nun*.

DEIR ALLA: [aw (?)],<sup>402</sup> as in וַיָּבֹאוּ "and they came" (I 1) and יִרְוּ "they will see" (II 13). The vocalization of these imperfects can be inferred from שִׁתֵּי "drink!" in I 10. Since this form is probably a masc. plural imperative, the *yodh* represented the diphthong [aw].<sup>403</sup> A diphthong, then, would have appeared in the masc. plural imperfect forms, following the pattern of these forms in the Aramaic dialects. Admittedly, there is no certain evidence for any particular pronunciation.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: [û], as in יַעֲבֹדוּ "they will act as witnesses" (Yavneh-Yam 1:10.11). The vocalization of these forms in the Masoretic text

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: ת- [ōt], as in לעשת "to do" (Arad 1:8).

The ending of the final weak *qal* infinitive construct divides the NWS dialects into two groups. In standard Phoenician and Hebrew, this inf. ended in ת- [ōt]. In Old (and later) Aramaic and Samalian, this inf. ended in a vowel. Thus the distribution of these two forms supports the traditional division between a Canaanite and Aramaic branch of NWS.

Within the Aramaic-Samalian group, however, Aramaic had one infinitive form regardless of construction; Samalian exhibited two different forms, depending upon the syntax of the infinitive. While Samalian, then, shared the vocalic ending of the inf. with Aramaic, it uniquely exhibited two different forms of the inf., depending upon construction.

### 23g. The *qal* masculine plural (undetermined) participle.

PHOENICIAN: \*[bōnēm], as inferred from בנם "builders" (KAI 100:2), as well as the *plene* forms בנאם "builders" (KAI 101:6) and בענים "builders" (KAI 140:6). The transcription, *bunem*, in *Or Ant* 2:75,3 suggests that the participle was formed in the same pattern as in Aramaic, i.e. *\*bānay-m* > *\*bōnay-m* > [bōnēm]; cf. Old Aramaic חזין "seers" (Zkr A 12).<sup>413</sup>

ARAMAIC: [bānay(i)n], as in חזין "seers" (Zkr A 12). The vocalization of this participle was either [ḥāzayn] or, with anaptyxis,<sup>414</sup> [ḥāzayin]. Had the participle been formed like \*[ḥāziyīn],<sup>415</sup> the intervocalic *yodh* would have syncopated to \*[ḥāzīn]. The presence of the *yodh*, then, argues for the diphthong [ay],<sup>416</sup> as in the form underlying the biblical Aramaic masc. plural undetermined participle.

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

The evidence of three NWS dialects, with respect to the form of the *D*-stem imperfect singular, suggests a twofold dialectal division. In Aramaic and Hebrew (and most other NWS dialects?), the imperfect ended in [ê]. In Moabite, it ended in either [îw] or [û]. While the forms in all these dialects were derived from the identical *\*yibanniy/wu*, a different sequence of phonological rules, as well as different vocalic assimilations, produced the unique vocalization in Moabite. Thus Moabite constitutes a dialectal island with respect to the vocalization of these forms in NWS.

#### 24a. The root הִלַךְ\*: The *qal* imperfect.

PHOENICIAN: No evidence.

ARAMAIC: This root is not attested in Old Aramaic. Another root, *\*hwk*, found also in Ethiopic, was the regular verb 'to go'.<sup>437</sup>

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: וָאֵלֵךְ 'and I went' (Mesha 14/15). The root *\*hlk*, then, was treated like a strong verb in the *qal* imperfect. Whether this form was the original construction,<sup>438</sup> or resulted from the (secondary) restoration of the *he* on analogy with the perfect,<sup>439</sup> is unknown.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: וָלָכּוּ 'and they flowed' (Shiloah 4), as well as similar forms without the first radical *he* in BH.

#### 24b. The *qal* imperative.

PHOENICIAN: Perhaps הִלַךְ 'go (away)!'' (fem. sing.) (Arsl.T. 1:21).<sup>440</sup> It is possible, however, that this form is an inf. absolute used as an imperative.<sup>441</sup>

ARAMAIC: No evidence. It is reasonable to assume, however, that the imperative, like the imperfect, was formed from *\*hwk*, not *\*hlk*.

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: לָכוּ 'go!' (masc. plural) (I 5). Like Hebrew, Moabite, and Ugaritic,<sup>442</sup> the imperative of the Deir Alla root *\*hlk* was formed from a secondary root *\*wlk*. The aphaeresis of the initial



radical in the imperative is a regular morphological feature of פ"י verbs.

MOABITE: לך "go!" (masc. sing.) (Mesha 14). The imperative of the Moabite verb *\*hlk* was formed after the pattern of original פ"י verbs.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: לך\*, as inferred from the regular form of the imperative of *\*hlk* in the Masoretic text. In Jer. 51:50,<sup>443</sup> however, the BH imperative of this root retained the initial *he*.

Since the form of the imperative and imperfect are morphologically related,<sup>444</sup> the forms of the imperative and imperfect of *\*hlk* should be considered together. One isogloss separates Aramaic from Phoenician-Deir Alla-Moabite-Hebrew; Aramaic employed the verbal root *\*hwk* to signify the verb "to go," whereas the remaining dialects used *\*hlk*/*\*wlk*. In this case, Aramaic was differentiated lexically from these dialects.

Within the Phoenician-Deir Alla-Moabite-Hebrew dialectal unit, further isoglosses can be drawn. In Hebrew, both the imperative and imperfect were formed from the secondary root *\*wlk*; similarly, in Moabite and Deir Alla, the imperative was formed from *\*wlk*. In Phoenician, however, the imperative may have retained the *he* of the original root *\*hlk*, if הלך in Arsl.T. 1:21 is indeed an imperative. The use of a secondary root *\*wlk* in the imperative and imperfect was an innovation shared by the Deir Alla dialect, Moabite, and Hebrew.<sup>445</sup>

In Moabite, however, the evidence is split between Phoenician and Hebrew-Deir Alla affinities. Whereas the imperative was formed from *\*wlk*, the imperfect was formed from *\*hlk*. Thus Moabite represents a transitional, dialectal area, with affinities to both morphological extremes of Phoenician (*\*hlk*) and Hebrew-Deir Alla (*\*wlk*). The language of the Mesha inscription reflects a time when the two roots *\*hlk* and *\*wlk* were still competing.<sup>446</sup>

In short, Aramaic stood apart from the other NWS dialects which attest a verb "to go," since it alone used the root *\*hwk* instead of *\*hlk*/*\*wlk*. Within the *\*hlk*/*\*wlk* region, Phoenician lay at one dialectal end, using *\*hlk*, while Hebrew and the Deir Alla dialect lay at the other, with *\*wlk*. Moabite stood dialectally midway between Phoenician and Hebrew-Deir Alla. In this way, Moabite is a tran-

The form [yiqqaḥ] was common to all NWS dialects. It is found in Phoenician, Aramaic, Samalian, the Deir Alla dialect, Moabite, and Hebrew. The only deviation appeared in Old Aramaic of Tell Fekheriyeh and, to a lesser extent, Sfire where the first radical, *lamedh*, was preserved in the imperfect construction. In these dialects, the form [yilqaḥ] was either a common retention or a new analogical formation.

## 25b. The ending of the *qal* infinitive construct.

PHOENICIAN:  $\text{ת-}^*$ , as inferred from the Punic form לקחת (KAI 76 B 5).

ARAMAIC:  $\emptyset$ , for example למלקח (Fekh. 9/10).

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW:  $\text{ת-}$ , for example לקחת (Lach. 3:18).

The ending of the infinitive construct of *\*lqh* divides the first-millennium NWS dialects into two groups. In the Aramaic dialect of Fekheriyeh, no suffixal modifications were appended. In Phoenician and Hebrew, a final *ת*- was added to the verb. Thus Fekheriyeh-Aramaic lay at one dialectal extreme (conservative), while Phoenician and Hebrew lay at the other (innovative).

## Notes to Chapter 3

1. The features listed in nos. 13–15 are not strictly morphological, but lexical in nature. They are included here since these features would commonly appear in the morphology section of a reference grammar.

2. The reading אנני in P 19 has now been corrected by Joseph P. Healey, "The Archaic Aramaic Inscriptions from Zinjirli" (Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1981), pp. 62, 86.

3. As read by Frank M. Cross, "The Cave Inscriptions from Khirbet Beit Lei," in *Near Eastern Archaeology in the Twentieth Century*, ed. James A. Sanders (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1970), p. 301.

4. Carl Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§104aδ.

5. I. J. Gelb, *Sequential Reconstruction of Proto-Akkadian*, Assyriological Studies, vol. 18 (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1969), p. 177.

6. Eduard Y. Kutscher, *A History of Aramaic*, Part 1, *Old Aramaic, Jaudic, Official Aramaic (Biblical Aramaic excepted)* (Jerusalem: Akadamon, 1972), p. 24 (in Hebrew).

7. Paul-E. Dion, *La langue de Ya'udi* (Waterloo, Ont.: The Corporation for the Publication of Academic Studies in Religion in Canada, 1974), p. 62.

8. See already S. Ronzevalle, "La langue des inscriptions dites de Hadad et de Panammū," in *Florilegium . . . Melchior de Vogüé* (Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1909), pp. 523–524. See below, no. 2a, for a complete discussion of זמח "this."

9. Joseph Naveh, "Old Hebrew Inscriptions in a Burial Cave," *IEJ* 13 (1963): 86. For a different reading, see Cross, in *Near Eastern Archaeology*, p. 302.

10. Brockelmann, *GvG* I:§104ca.

11. See Stanislav Segert, *A Grammar of Phoenician and Punic* (Munich: C. H. Beck, 1976), §51.132.

12. André Dupont-Sommer, "Une inscription araméenne inédite de Sfiré," *BMB* 13 (1956): 27, 35.

13. J. T. Milik, in Joseph A. Fitzmyer, "The Aramaic Suzainty Treaty from Sefire in the Museum of Beirut," *CBQ* 20 (1958): 462.

14. See Fitzmyer, "A Further Note on the Aramaic Inscription Sefire III.22," *JSS* 14 (1969): 198 with nn. 4–6; and Rainer Degen, *Altaramäische Grammatik der Inschriften des 10.–8. Jh. v. Chr.*, *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*, vol. 38/3 (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1969), p. 22 n. 88.

15. So, for example, J. Hoftijzer, "Interpretation and Grammar," in *Aramaic Texts from Deir 'Alla*, ed. J. Hoftijzer and G. van der Kooij, *Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui*, vol. 19 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1976), p. 185; Fitzmyer, "[Review of Hoftijzer and van der Kooij, eds., *Aramaic Texts*]," *CBQ* 40 (1978): 94–95; and Jo Ann Carlton (Hackett), "Studies in the Plaster Text from Tell Deir 'Allā" (Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1980), pp. 48–49, 139.

16. So André Caquot and André Lemaire, "Les textes araméens de Deir 'Alla," *Syria* 54 (1977): 194; P. Kyle McCarter, "The Balaam Texts from Deir 'Allā: The First Combination," *BASOR* 239 (1980): 52 (one possibility); and Stephen A. Kaufman, "[Review of Hoftijzer and van der Kooij, eds., *Aramaic Texts*]," *BASOR* 239 (1980): 73.

17. See Ziony Zevit, *Matres Lectionis in Ancient Hebrew Epigraphs*, *ASOR Monograph Series*, vol. 2 (Cambridge: ASOR, 1980), p. 28.

18. See Chapter 2, no. 19.

19. See Brockelmann, *GvG* I:§104f, for comparative evidence.

20. See no. 1d, below.

21. Cf. E. Lipiński, "From Karatepe to Pyrgi. Middle Phoenician Miscellanea," *RSF* 2 (1974): 49–50.

22. Brockelmann, *GvG* I:§104gy.

23. Until recently, scholars have restored this form of the demonstrative in the Ur Box, ארן ארן "this coffin" (e.g., Zellig S. Harris, *A Gram-*

*mar of the Phoenician Language*, American Oriental Series, vol. 8 [New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1936], p. 54; Johannes Friedrich and Wolfgang Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §113b; and *KAI* 2:47). Ginsberg ("Ugaritico-Phoenicia," *JANES* 5 [1973]: 141), however, pointed out that since the third person singular pronominal suffix is ~ in this text, it is unlikely that a specifically Byblian demonstrative should be restored. Thus, he restored [שן] אר "(this) ivory box," which accords better with the dialect of the text. The Phoenician pronoun, אר, then, is found only in the Old Byblian dialect.

24. Franz Rosenthal, in Ginsberg, "An Aramaic Contemporary of the Lachish Letters," *BASOR* 111 (1948): 25 n. 4c; followed by Fitzmyer, "The Aramaic Letter of King Adon to the Egyptian Pharaoh," *Bibl* 46 (1965): 54, 44; John C. L. Gibson, *Textbook of Syrian Semitic Inscriptions*, 3 vols. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971–1982), 2:113, 115; and Bezalel Porten, "The Identity of King Adon," *BA* 44 (1981): 36.

25. Ronzevalle, in *Florilegium . . . Melchior de Vogüé*, p. 524; Hans H. Schaeder, *Iranische Beiträge I*, Schriften der Königsberger Gelehrten Gesellschaft, Geisteswissenschaftliche Klasse, vol. 6, pt. 5 (Halle an der Saale: Max Niemeyer, 1930), p. 241; and Rosenthal, *Die Sprache der palmyrenischen Inschriften und ihre Stellung innerhalb des Aramäischen*, MVAG, vol. 41, pt. 1 (Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1936), pp. 49, 51. Cf. Ginsberg, "Aramaic Studies Today," *JAOS* 62 (1942): 235 n. 29.

26. A. van Selms, "Some Remarks on the 'Ammān Citadel Inscriptions,'" *BiOr* 32 (1975): 7.

27. So, for example, Horn, Cross, Albright, Kutscher, Puech and Rofé, Dion, and Fulco.

28. Published by Yigael Yadin et al., *Hazor II. An Account of the Second Season of Excavations, 1956* (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1960), pp. 71–72.

29. Jakob Barth, *Die Pronominalbildung in den semitischen Sprachen* (Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1913), §§42–47, 37a; and Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§107 (especially §§d, f).

30. Ali Abou-Assaf, Pierre Bordreuil, and Alan R. Millard, *La statue de Tell Fekherye et son inscription bilingue assyro-araméenne* (Paris: Editions Recherche sur les civilisations, 1982), pp. 34, 48.

31. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§§107a, va.

32. *Ibid.*, 1:§107a.

33. *Ibid.*, 1:§107pβ.

34. See Barth, *Pronominalbildung*, §28.

35. Rosenthal, "Canaanite and Aramaic Inscriptions," in *ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 658 with n. 1 (tentatively).

36. Caquot, "Observations sur la Première Tablette Magique d'Arslan Tash," *JANES* 5 (1973): 47. Cf. Frank M. Cross and Richard J. Saley, "Phoenician Incantations on a Plaque of the Seventh Century B.C. from Arslan Tash in Upper Syria," *BASOR* 197 (1970): 44 n. 7; and Röllig, "Die Amulette von Arslan Taş," *NESE* 2 (1974): 18, 21.

37. See examples listed by Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§107va.

38. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 189, 287.
39. Caquot and Lemaire, *Syria* 54 (1977): 194.
40. Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 44.
41. For example, Baruch A. Levine, "The Deir 'Alla Plaster Inscriptions," *JAOS* 101 (1981): 196; and Helga and Manfred Weippert, "Die 'Bileam'-Inschrift von Tell Dêr 'Allâ," *ZDPV* 98 (1982): 84.
42. See Chapter 4, no. 2.
43. Barth, *Pronominalbildung*, §48a; and Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§107g n. 1.
44. Barth, *Pronominalbildung*, §49.
45. Giovanni Garbini, *L'aramaico antico*, Atti della Accademia nazionale dei Lincei, Memoria. Classe di scienze morali, storiche e filologiche, Series VIII, vol. 7 (Rome: Accademia nazionale dei Lincei, 1956), pp. 266, 268, 275.
46. Additional citations in Degen, *Grammatik*, §40.
47. Degen, "Die aramäischen Tontafeln vom Tell Halaf," *NESE* 1 (1972): 52. Cf. already Friedrich, "Denkmäler mit westsemitischer Buchstabenschrift," in *Die Inschriften vom Tell Halaf*, ed. J. Friedrich et al. AfO Beiheft, vol. 6 (Berlin: [private], 1940), p. 72.
48. Segert, *Altaramäische Grammatik* (Leipzig: VEB Verlag Enzyklopädie, 1975), §5.1.5.1.4; and Degen, *NESE* 1 (1972): 52 n. 4.
49. Rosenthal, *Die Sprache*, p. 51.
50. Dupont-Sommer, "Une inscription nouvelle du roi Kilamou et le dieu Rekoub-El," *RHR* 133 (1947-1948): 23; and Ginsberg, *JANES* 5 (1973): 147.
51. Felice Israel, "The Language of the Ammonites," *OLP* 10 (1979): 146. Cf. p. 65 n. 23.
52. Hackett, "The Dialect of the Plaster Text from Tell Deir 'Alla," *Or* 53 (1984): 60.
53. So Hoftijzer, Fitzmyer, Caquot and Lemaire, Naveh, Levine, McCarter, and Kaufman. See especially the biblical passages cited by Weippert and Weippert, *ZDPV* 98 (1982): 84.
54. Cf. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 267, 287.
55. See above, p. 11.
- 55a. Evidence of the relative אֲשֶׁר in the Samaria texts is highly uncertain (*contra*, for example, E. L. Sukenik, "Note on a Fragment of an Israelite Stele found at Samaria," *PEQ* 1936: 156). The text in question is too broken to yield even speculative grammatical conclusions.
56. Garbini, *Il semitico di nord-ovest*, Quaderni della sezione linguistica degli Annali, vol. 1 (Naples: Istituto universitario orientale di Napoli, 1960), p. 105.
57. See Mitchell Dahood, "The Linguistic Position of Ugaritic in the Light of Recent Discoveries," *Sacra Pagina* 1 (1958): 269.
58. For relative \**q*, see Barth, *Pronominalbildung*, §66.
59. For relative \**l*, see Gelb, *Old Akkadian Writing and Grammar*, Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary, vol. 2. 2nd ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1961), pp. 134-136; and Harris, *Development of*

136. Nöldeke, *Die Inschrift des Königs Mesa von Moab* (Kiel: Schwes'sche Buchhandlung, 1870), p. 33 n. 2; and William L. Moran, "[Review of Cross and Freedman, *EHO*]," *CBQ* 15 (1953): 366.
137. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 41.
138. Barth, *Pronominalbildung*, §11a.
139. See Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §234.
140. There are no examples of a singular noun with first person singular suffix on an accusative.
141. Translation of Rosenthal, in *ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 654.
142. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §234.
143. For additional examples, see Degen, *Grammatik*, §36.
144. Cyrus H. Gordon, *UT* §6.6.
145. Wolfram von Soden, *GAG* §42g with nn. 1, 2.
146. The form is vocalized as if it were nominative, yet in the inscription it is genitive. See also pp. 40, 71 n. 146 on the derivation of ארת "lady."
147. There are no masculine singular nouns + third person singular suffix in the Old Byblian texts. For these feminine forms, see no. 8 above, and Friedrich, "Kleinigkeiten zum Phönizischen, Punischen und Numidischen," *ZDMG* 114 (1964): 226.
148. Ginsberg, *JANES* 5 (1973): 142, where the suffix is treated as an aneeps vowel.
149. Rosenthal, "[Review of Harris, *Grammar*]," *Or* 7 (1938): 172.
150. Cf. Ginsberg, *JANES* 5 (1973): 145.
151. Hoftijzer, *Le Muséon* 76 (1963): 196 n. 9 (who interpreted the suffix as the first person singular). See also Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §234 (p. 109).
152. Rosenthal, *Or* 7 (1938): 172.
153. Segert, *Grammar*, §51.261.
154. See Chapter 2, no. 16.
155. Cross, *BASOR* 193 (1969): 19 with n. 15; and Raphael Kutscher, "A New Inscription from 'Amman," *Qadmoniot* 5 (1972): 28 (in Hebrew).
156. See Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, pp. 35 with n. 2, 37 n. 7, for a discussion of the possible vocalizations. See also Chapter 2, no. 16.
157. So *ibid.*, p. 47.
158. *B-L* §25r.
159. Cf. Freedman, "The Massoretic Text and the Qumran Scrolls: A Study in Orthography," *Textus* 2 (1962): 93 (tentatively); and Cross, *Canaanite Myth and Hebrew Epic* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1973), p. 102 n. 40.
160. See Chapter 2, no. 16 with n. 272.
161. Naveh, *IEJ* 13 (1963): 84 with n. 20.
162. Idem, "A Hebrew Letter from the Seventh Century B.C.," *IEJ* 10 (1960): 133 n. 6; and Zevit, *Matres Lectionis*, pp. 21–22.
163. Cross, in *Near Eastern Archaeology*, p. 301; and idem, "Epigraphic Notes on Hebrew Documents of the Eighth–Sixth Centuries B.C.: II. The Murabba'at Papyrus and the Letter Found Near Yabneh-Yam," *BASOR* 165 (1962): 43 with n. 31.

164. See Chapter 2, no. 17.
165. So, for example, Torczyner, Albright, Cross and Saley, Rosenthal, Gaster, Röllig, and Caquot.
166. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §112. Cf. Charles R. Krahmalkov, "Observations on the Affixing of Possessive Pronouns in Punic," *RSO* 44 (1969): 181–186.
167. Cf. KAI 219:2, יִזְקָרְבִן [ ] J.
168. So Kutscher, "Aramaic," in *Linguistics in South West Asia and North Africa*, Current Trends in Linguistics, vol. 6 (The Hague/Paris: Mouton, 1970), p. 350; and J. J. Koopmans, *Aramäische Chrestomathie*, 2 vols. (Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 1962), 1:21.
169. So Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 22 n. 10; and Gibson, *Textbook*, 2:5.
170. Schaefer, *Iranische Beiträge I*, pp. 240–241; Fitzmyer, *The Aramaic Inscriptions of Sefire*, *Biblica et Orientalia*, vol. 19 (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1967), p. 73; and Kutscher, in *Linguistics in South West Asia*, p. 350.
171. Cf. Kutscher, *A History of Aramaic*, p. 25.
172. Hofstijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 287.
173. So, for example, Nöldeke, "Untersuchungen zur semitischen Grammatik," *ZDMG* 38 (1884): 420 n. 6; and Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§105dα.
174. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§105dβ.
175. For this vocalization, see Krahmalkov, "Studies in Phoenician and Punic Grammar," *JSS* 15 (1970): 181–185.
176. Abou-Assaf et al., *La statue*, pp. 29, 48.
177. See above, p. 87.
178. See no. 10c, for the vocalization [hem] < \*hum(u).
179. See Krahmalkov, *RSO* 44 (1969): 181–186, for the connecting vowel [ō] in Phoenician and Punic.
180. This form is a dual, but the outcome is identical to that of the masculine plural.
181. So read by Cross, in *Near Eastern Archaeology*, pp. 301, 305 n. 11.
182. Zevit, *Matres Lectionis*, p. 28.
183. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§105eα.
184. The presence of the diphthong in the Hebrew form results from the southern provenience of all attested forms; the northern form would have been \*[ēkā].
185. See Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§105e, for evidence.
186. Cf. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 15.
187. So Friedrich, in *Tell Halaf*, p. 77; and Degen, *NESE* 1 (1972): 55 (tentatively).
188. Kienast, *Münchener Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft* 10 (1957): 73–76.
189. Degen, *Grammatik*, §36 (end).
190. See p. 75 n. 253 for references.
191. See Chapter 2, no. 16.

192. Dion, *La langue*, p. 407 n. 45.
193. Idem, *RB* 82 (1975): 32 with n. 55.
194. With Horn, Puech and Rofé, and Fulco.
195. So, for example, Hackett, *Or* 53 (1984): 63.
196. The suffix is masculine, as most interpreters have agreed (Cooke, *NSI*, p. 13; Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 41; and Segert, *ArOr* 29 [1961]: 259).
197. Naveh, *IEJ* 29 (1979): 136; and Greenfield, *JSS* 25 (1980): 250. Cf. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 38.
198. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, pp. 46–47 with n. 11. For other opinions, see Ginsberg, "[Review of Diringer, *Le iscrizioni*]," *ArOr* 8 (1936): 146; and Gibson, *Textbook*, 1:3.
199. See Chapter 2, no. 7.
200. So, for example, Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, pp. 47, 68–69.
201. Lemaire, "Les inscriptions de Khirbet el-Qôm et l'Ashêrah de YHWH," *RB* 84 (1977): 599, 601.
202. William G. Dever, "Iron Age Epigraphic Material from the Area of Khirbet el-Kôm," *HUCA* 40–41 (1969–1970): 159; and idem, "Inscriptions from Khirbet el-Kôm," *Qadmoniot* 4 (1971): 91 (in Hebrew). See also Zevit, *Matres Lectionis*, pp. 17–18 n. 6.
203. See above, no. 6b.
204. Cf. Cross, in Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 172–173.
205. See above, no. 9d.
206. Chapter 2, no. 8.
207. For the phonetic variants, see Chapter 2, nos. 16, 17.
208. So, for example, Hayim Tawil, "A Note on the Aḥiram Inscription," *JANES* 3/1 (1970–1971): 34 (earlier literature on p. 34 n. 13). Others emended to ח(ב)ש "his abode" (Albright, *JAOS* 67 [1947]: 155 n. 19; Rosenthal, in *ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 661; Naveh, "[Review of Friedrich and Röhlig, *PPG*]," *JAOS* 93 [1973]: 589).
209. See above, no. 9b.
210. The stem is *G*, not *D* (see Rosenthal, *Or* 7 [1938]: 170–171).
211. See Krahmalkov, "The Object Pronouns of the Third Person of Phoenician and Punic," *RSF* 2 (1974): 39–43, esp. p. 42.
212. Cross, *BASOR* 193 (1969): 17.
213. Kutscher, *Qadmoniot* 5 (1972): 27.
214. For other readings, see Emile Puech and Alexander Rofé, "L'inscription de la citadelle d'Amman," *RB* 80 (1973): 536; Dion, *RB* 82 (1975): 29–30; and William J. Fulco, "The 'Ammān Citadel Inscription: A New Collation," *BASOR* 230 (1978): 41.
215. See Chapter 4, no. 1b. Cf. Caquot and Lemaire, *Syria* 54 (1977): 204, 205.
216. See above, no. 9b and n. 156.
217. So Cross, *BASOR* 165 (1962): 44 with n. 40; and *KAI* 2: 201.
218. Cf. Gibson, *Textbook*, 1:30.
219. See Robert Hetzron, "Third person singular pronoun suffixes in Proto-Semitic," *Orientalia Suecana* 18 (1969): 101–127, esp. pp. 119–120.



247. See the new reading and translation by P. Kyle McCarter and Robert B. Coote, "The Spatula Inscription from Byblos," *BASOR* 212 (1973): 19.

248. So, for example, Cooke, *NSI*, p. 170 (probable interpretation); and *KAI* 2:222.

249. So, for example, Charles-F. Jean and J. Hoftijzer, *Dictionnaire des inscriptions sémitiques de l'ouest* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1965), p. 66. Cf. Paul Joüon, *Grammaire de l'hébreu biblique* (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1923), §167l.

250. So, for example, William L. Reed and Fred V. Winnett, "A Fragment of an Early Moabite Inscription from Kerak," *BASOR* 172 (1963): 9; and Gibson, *Textbook*, 1:84.

251. Brockelmann, *GvG* 2:§419.

252. Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 148. See also McCarter, *BASOR* 239 (1980): 52, 59 n. 4.

253. See *B-L* §65s; and Joüon, *Grammaire*, §93g, for discussions.

254. Ronald J. Williams, *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*, 2nd ed. (Toronto/Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1976), §61; Gordon, *UT* §11.2; and Chapter 2, no. 18b.

255. Contrast, for example, Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 186–187, with Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 54.

256. Gordon, *UT* §11.1.

257. Albright, "An Aramaean Magical Text in Hebrew from the Seventh Century B.C.," *BASOR* 76 (1939): 9–10 with n. 36.

258. *KAI* 2:46; and Segert, *Grammar*, §57.4 (tentatively).

259. Cross and Saley, *BASOR* 197 (1970): 46 with nn. 29–30; and Rölig, *NESE* 2 (1974): 19, 25.

260. See Friedrich and Rölig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §318.3a, for the use of אַל.

261. Abou-Assaf et al., *La statue*, p. 49.

262. The loss of precative *lamedh* may be attributable to the coexistence of a "short" imperfect. In a construction like יִהְיֶה, the meaning is clearly "let him be"; a prefixed *lamedh* would be redundant, as it is in יִהְיֶה. In the western dialects, then, the competition between "short" imperfect and precative *lamedh* + "short" imperfect led to the loss of precative *lamedh*; in the East, the precative *lamedh* was preserved, with and without precative force.

263. See Eduard König, "Das *l*-Jaqtul im Semitischen," *ZDMG* 51 (1897): 330–337.

264. Kaufman, *The Akkadian Influences on Aramaic*, Assyriological Studies, vol. 19 (Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press, 1974), pp. 124–126.

265. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§257Hae.

266. Cf. Abou-Assaf et al., *La statue*, pp. 37, 46.

267. The autograph of this text reads הַיְיָ/יְיָ הַיְיָ, not הַיְיָ/יְיָ הַיְיָ (*KAI* and Fitzmyer).

268. Rosenthal, in *ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 660 n. 10.

269. For a different opinion, see Degen, *Grammatik*, §§10, 11, 25.

270. J. Halévy, "Nouvel Examen des inscriptions de Zindjirli," *RS* 7 (1899): 345; Gibson, *Textbook*, 2:63; and Dion, *La langue*, p. 206.
271. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 108–109.
272. Cross, *BASOR* 193 (1969): 19 n. 16 (preferred alternative); Garbini, *Le lingue semitiche. Studi di storia linguistica* (Naples: Istituto orientale di Napoli, 1972), p. 105; and Fulco, *BASOR* 230 (1978): 42 (tentatively).
273. Dion, *RB* 82 (1975): 31.
274. So Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 292; Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 100 (one possibility). Cf. Levine, *JAOS* 101 (1981): 201.
275. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 292, 293.
276. Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 144, 145. See also Naveh, *IEJ* 29 (1979): 136.
277. So Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 228, 293; and Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 100, 145.
278. See below, no. 22b.
279. Examples cited in *B-L* §38f.
280. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§257Haß.
281. Gotthelf Bergsträsser, *Einführung in die semitischen Sprachen* (1928; reprint ed., Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1977), p. 66.
282. Translation of Cross, *BASOR* 193 (1969): 19 n. 16; and idem, "Ammonite Ostraca from Heshbon: Heshbon Ostraca IV–VIII," *AUSS* 13 (1975): 12 n. 34, although the verb is analyzed as Gt.
283. Krahmalkov, "An Ammonite Lyric Poem," *BASOR* 223 (1976): 57. Cf. William H. Shea, "The Siran Inscription: Amminadab's Drinking Song," *PEQ* 1978: 109.
284. So, for example, Dion, and Zayadine and Thompson.
285. Albright, "Some Comments on the 'Amman Citadel Inscription,'" *BASOR* 198 (1970): 39.
286. For the readings, see Fulco, *BASOR* 230 (1978): 39–41.
287. For this reading, see H. Van Dyke Parunak, "The Orthography of the Arad Ostraca," *BASOR* 230 (1978): 25, 27–28.
288. For comparative evidence, see Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§257Hf.
289. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §146.
290. Garbini, "I dialetti del fenicio," *AION* 27 (1977): 286 n. 16; and P. Swiggers, "[Review of Segert, *Grammar*]," *Lingua* 50 (1980): 384–385.
291. Garbini, "Il causativo *hqt*l nel dialetto fenicio di Biblo," *AION* 24 (1974): 411–412.
292. Cross, "A Recently Published Phoenician Inscription of the Persian Period from Byblos," *IEJ* 29 (1979): 41.
293. So, for example, Degen, *Grammatik*, pp. 19 n. 76, 25, 68 n. 54, 70 n. 58. Cf. Fitzmyer, *Sefire*, pp. 106, 157.
294. Cf. Naveh, *IEJ* 29 (1979): 135.
295. For the development of the prefix, see Harris, *Grammar*, p. 43; and idem, *Development*, p. 74.
296. See Lipiński, *RSF* 2 (1974): 54; and Röllig, *NESE* 2 (1974): 36.
297. See Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§262e.

298. Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 31.
299. Cf. *ibid.*, p. 27.
300. See above, pp. 107–108.
301. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 55–59.
302. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§262e.
303. See Chapter 2, no. 19.
304. For the vocalization, see Chapter 2, no. 7.
305. Klaus Beyer, "[Review of Degen, *Grammatik*]," *ZDMG* 120 (1970): 200.
306. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 104–105.
307. See Chapter 2, no. 7.
308. See Chapter 2, no. 7.
309. Harris, *Development*, pp. 45–46.
310. See p. 77 n. 283.
311. Cf. Blau, *HUCA* 51 (1980): 17, 27.
312. Degen, "Die Präfixkonjugationen des Altaramäischen," in *XVII. Deutscher Orientalistentag . . . Würzburg. Vorträge*, ed. Wolfgang Voigt, *ZDMG Supplementa*, vol. 1, pt. 2 (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1969), pp. 701–706; and *idem*, *Grammatik*, §§49–50.
313. For the ending [awn], see *idem*, *Grammatik*, p. 77 n. 78; and no. 23e below.
314. See below, no. 18b.
315. The ending is [aw] since the verb is final weak. See no. 23e below.
316. Cf. Nöldeke, "Bemerkungen zu den aramäischen Inschriften von Sendschirli," *ZDMG* 47 (1893): 102; Halévy, "Les Deux Inscriptions hébreüennes de Zindjirli," *RS* 1 (1893): 254; and Dion, *La langue*, pp. 184–186.
317. This form was once read  $\text{p}^{\text{h}}\text{y}^{\text{h}}\text{p}^{\text{h}}\text{a}^{\text{h}}$ , a (h)ithpaël conjugation of \*lwy (for example, Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 18). More recently, however, scholars have agreed on the reading  $\text{p}^{\text{h}}\text{y}^{\text{h}}\text{p}^{\text{h}}$ , from \*lwn (so *KAI* 2:33, etc.).
318. For the translation, see Segert, *Grammar*, §54.364.
319. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §§135, 261, 264. *Contra* Friedrich, "Der Schwund kurzer Endvokale im Nordwestsemitischen," *ZS* 1 (1922): 6 n. 2; and Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 40–41. Cf. also Segert, *Grammar*, §§64.51, 64.531.
320. Cf. Garbini, *L'aramaico antico*, pp. 268, 275.
321. In the Nerab inscriptions, all third person masc. plural imperfect verbs end in  $\text{-}\text{w}$ . Yet since these verbs were volitive, it is not known whether the corresponding indicative verbs ended in \*-än or the identical \*-ä. See Rosenthal, *Die Sprache*, p. 59.
322. So read by Fulco, *BASOR* 230 (1978): 41.
323. See n. 315.
324. Hackett, *Or* 53 (1984): 62.
325. Cf. Kaufman, *BiOr* 34 (1977): 94.
326. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 192, 463 n. 3.
327. For comparative evidence, see Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§260Cg.
328. Blau, *Hebrew Annual Review* 2 (1978): 37.
329. For comparative evidence, see Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§263Bb.

354. Cf. Hoftijzer, Caquot and Lemaire, McCarter, and Levine, who interpreted  $\text{nw}$  as "there."

355. Joüon, *Grammaire*, §80c.

356. See above, nn. 317–318.

357. On the *yodh*, see Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§270Gg; and Rosenthal, *A Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*, *Porta Linguarum Orientalium*, New Series, vol. 5 (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1974), §139.

358. So Degen, *Grammatik*, p. 76 n. 76; and Segert, *Grammatik*, §5.7.6.7.2.

359. See Fitzmyer, *Sefire*, pp. 86–87.

360. For survivals, see Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§270Gg, Anm.

361. See above, n. 277.

362. Blau, *Hebrew Annual Review* 2 (1978): 37.

363. Gordon, *UT* §9.36.

364. Cf. Ginsberg, in *Akten . . . 1957*, p. 256; idem, in *Patriarchs*, pp. 103–104; and Blau, *Hebrew Annual Review* 2 (1978): 37.

365. Harris, *Grammar*, p. 45; and Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §176a. For the ending *-t* in Punic, see Nöldeke, *ZDMG* 38 (1884): 417 with n. 4.

366. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §86a.

367. *Ibid.*, p. 84 n. 1.

368. *B-L* §57r.

369. Blau, *Hebrew Annual Review* 2 (1978): 36 n. 28.

370. See Chapter 2, nos. 15 and 6.

371. See Chapter 2, no. 19.

372. Segert, *Grammatik*, §§5.7.8.2.2–3.

373. Dion, *La langue*, p. 59.

374. See n. 31.

375. See p. 74 n. 238.

376. See Chapter 2, no. 6.

377. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §176d.

378. So, for example, Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 78, 146; and Weippert and Weippert, *ZDPV* 98 (1982): 97.

379. Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 78.

380. Cf. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§271Hbβ.

381. Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 292. See further the citations in Weippert and Weippert, *ZDPV* 98 (1982): 97.

382. In either case, however, it is difficult to reconcile the form of  $\text{w}$  with that of  $\text{w}$  (I 5), unless the latter is an infinitive (see below, n. 410). See McCarter, *BASOR* 239 (1980): 55–56.

383. Lemaire, "Les ostraca paléo-hébreux des fouilles de l'Ophel," *Levant* 10 (1978): 159.

384. See no. 18b.

385. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §§135, 261, 264.

386. See, for example, Degen, in *XVII . . . Orientalistentag*, pp. 701–706. Cf. Segert, *Grammatik*, §5.6.5.2.3, for possible vocalizations.

387. The jussive and consecutive imperfect are derived from the self-same *\*yaqtul*.

388. Greenfield, *JSS* 25 (1980): 251 (tentatively).
389. So Fitzmyer, McCarter, and others.
390. For the reading, see Hackett, *Or* 53 (1984): 59 n. 15.
391. Cf. Segert, *Grammar*, §54.464.3 (on Phoenician).
392. As read by Cross, in *Near Eastern Archaeology*, p. 301.
393. *B-L* §857d-h.
394. See Karl Jaberg, *Aspects géographiques du langage*, Société de publications romanes et françaises, vol. 18 (Paris: Librairie E. Droz, 1936), p. 94.
395. Cf. Dion, *JNES* 37 (1978): 117.
396. Cf. nos. 18a and 18b.
397. The final *nun* did not appear in the early period. See no. 18b.
398. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§271He.
399. Caquot, "Une inscription araméenne d'époque assyrienne," in *Hommages à André Dupont-Sommer* (Paris: Adrien-Maisonneuve, 1971), pp. 9-16.
400. See Degen, *Grammatik*, p. 77 n. 78.
401. For the final *nun*, see no. 18b.
402. Cf. Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 137, 136.
403. See no. 23c.
404. Bergsträsser, *Hebräische Grammatik*, 2 vols. (Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel, 1918-1929), 2:§301. Cf. *B-L* §57c.
405. The presence or absence of *-n* is not significant for this purpose.
406. For example, *KAI* 2:246; and Segert, *Grammatik*, §5.7.8.5.1.
407. So, for example, Fitzmyer, *Sefire*, p. 40; and Degen, *Grammatik*, p. 78 with n. 82. Because of this formal difficulty, Fitzmyer and Degen preferred to interpret לחויה as a *pacl* inf. Yet this interpretation poses two problems. First, a *pacl* conjugation of חוה does not occur in the Aramaic dialects; the oft-cited example of the *pacl* of this root, מוח in *Nerab* 2:5, is instead a contraction of the interrogative [mā] + participle [hāzi(h)], i.e. "what do (I) see?" (Cooke, *NSI*, p. 190; and Rosenthal, in *ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 661). Second, if the infinitive were *pacl*, the expected syntax of the infinitive + nominal accusative would be a construct chain, as for example לאבדת אשמהם "and to destroy their name" (Sf. II B 7) and (haphel) ברי ולהמת ברי "and to kill my son" (Sf. III 11); instead of the expected לחויה ערי\*, this proposed *pacl* infinitive appears as לחויה. לחויה, then, cannot be a *pacl* infinitive.
408. Nöldeke, *Mandäische Grammatik*, §191 (end).
409. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§198c; and Rosenthal, *Grammar*, §149.
410. Rosenthal, "Notes on the Third Aramaic Inscription from Sefire-Sûjin," *BASOR* 158 (1960): 29 n. 6.
411. Degen, *Grammatik*, p. 78 with n. 81.
412. *Contra* Dion, *La langue*, p. 57, with literature cited on p. 392 nn. 19, 22.
413. While it is possible that *e* in *bunem* represents the vowel [i], the masculine plural participles *dobrim* "saying" (Poen. 935) and *iusim* "going out" (Poen. 939) show *i* for [i]. In view of these examples, the *e* in *bunem* indicates a significant difference from the regular masculine plural morpheme. *e* is a contraction from \*ay.

440. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §163. Cf. Caquot, *JANES* 5 (1973): 49 n. 14.
441. Cross and Saley, *BASOR* 197 (1970): 46 n. 23a. Cf. Röllig, *NESE* 2 (1974): 24; and Chapter 4, no. 7a.
442. See Harris, *Development*, pp. 33, 71.
443. Cf. the imperfect forms יהלך (Ps. 58:9, etc.), אהלך (Job 16:22), etc. See *GKC* §69x.
444. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§258A.
445. Cf. Blau, *Hebrew Annual Review* 2 (1978): 37.
446. Cf. idem, *Maarav* 2 (1980): 145–146.
447. See Harris, *Development*, pp. 8–9.
448. See Chapter 5 for the position of Sfire-Aramaic within the Aramaic dialects.
449. Cf. Segert, "Noch zu den assimilierenden Verba im Hebräischen," *ArOr* 24 (1956): 133–134.
450. Anson F. Rainey, "Three Additional Hebrew Ostraca from Tel Arad," *Tel Aviv* 4 (1977): 101.

# SYNTAX

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## 1a. The pronoun: The proleptic suffix.<sup>1</sup>

BYBLIAN: No evidence.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: The proleptic suffix appeared regularly with the infinitive construct followed by a noun; the suffix was therefore subjective and redundant.<sup>2</sup> The suffix is found in לשבתנם דננים “so that they may dwell, (i.e.) the Danunians” (Karatepe A I 17/18) and לתתי בעלברנתריש “so that he may give, (i.e.) Baal-Krntryš” (Karatepe A III 4). Cf. similarly later standard Phoenician, as for example למלכי מלך אשמנעזר “of his rule, (i.e. of) king Eshmunazor” (Eshmunazor I).<sup>3</sup>

ARAMAIC: There was no proleptic suffix in Old Aramaic. In later eastern Aramaic dialects, the proleptic suffix is a characteristic feature.<sup>4</sup> A genitive particle, however, frequently separates the two members of the phrase, as in biblical Aramaic שרשודי די אלנא “the roots of the tree” (Dan. 4:23).<sup>5</sup>

SAMALIAN: There does not appear to have been a proleptic suffix in Samalian.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: A proleptic suffix does not seem to appear in the Deir Alla dialect. The decipherable material, however, is meager.

MOABITE: There was no proleptic suffix in Moabite, according to the present evidence.<sup>6</sup>

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Evidence uncertain. Skehan<sup>7</sup> has suggested that the proleptic suffix appeared in the Gezer Calendar, as for example in ירחו אסף "the two months of it, (i.e. of) gathering" (l. 1), ירחו זרע "the two months of it, (i.e. of) sowing" (ll. 1/2), etc. Similarly, Cross<sup>8</sup> identified the proleptic suffix in Arad 17:2, ביתה.אלישב "his house, (i.e. of) Elyšab." Finally, a proleptic suffix may have appeared in Beit Lei A 2, לו לאלהי ירושלם "his, (of) the God of Jerusalem."<sup>9</sup>

Yet each example is ambiguous. The passages cited in the Gezer Calendar are not clearly understood to date and therefore are not usable evidence. The passage in Arad 17 does not contain a proleptic suffix, but rather the directive *he* followed by an unbound name.<sup>10</sup> And the passage in Beit Lei A 2 may be read differently, as Cross<sup>11</sup> has done; this new reading removes the proleptic suffix altogether. Thus, there is no certain evidence for the proleptic suffix in epigraphic Hebrew.

The proleptic suffix is used throughout the West Semitic languages, though in different constructions, to anticipate a following noun.<sup>12</sup> In first-millennium NWS, only standard Phoenician showed a regular use of the proleptic suffix; it appeared only on infinitive constructs whose following noun was subjective. The other dialects apparently did not employ the proleptic suffix. On the one hand, then, this syntactic feature was unique to standard Phoenician among the first-millennium NWS dialects. On the other hand, standard Phoenician usage reflects common West Semitic syntax.

# 1b. The form of the direct object pronoun of the finite verb (objective suffix vs. *nota accusativi* + suffix).

PHOENICIAN: The direct object pronoun always took the form of objective suffixes, as in פעלן "he made me" (Karatepe A I 3.12), עננתם "I subdued them" (Karatepe A I 20), שחי "I made him" (Kilamu II.11), etc.

ARAMAIC: The direct object pronoun generally took the form of objective suffixes, as in בכוני "they bewailed me" (Nerab 2:5/6),



אחצלק "I will rescue you" (Zkr A 14), תשריה "may you release him" (Sf. III 18), היטבתה "I made it better" (Br-Rkb 1:12), etc. The author could give the direct object pronoun added emphasis by putting the object in the form of the *nota accusativi* אית + possessive suffix, as in הן איתן יקתלן "if it is me they kill"<sup>13</sup> (Sf. III 11) and תבה אית(ת)ה "you slay him" (Sf. III 13).<sup>14</sup>

SAMALIAN: The direct object pronoun was usually the objective suffix, as in הושבני "he made me sit" (P 19), בכיה "they bewailed him" (P 17), תהרגה "you will kill him" (H 33), and היטבה "he made it better" (P 9). This pronoun also took the form of the *nota accusativi* ות<sup>15</sup> + possessive suffix, as in ויקם ותה "and he will erect it" (H 28). The semantic difference between these two notations of the direct object pronoun is unknown.

AMMONITE: No evidence. The example of objective suffixes recognized by Cross,<sup>16</sup> Kutscher,<sup>17</sup> and Puech and Rofé<sup>18</sup> are uncertain since the readings of these texts are difficult.<sup>19</sup>

DEIR ALLA: The direct object pronoun was an objective suffix in the extant texts, as in אחוכם "I shall tell you" (I 5) and תשנאן "you hate him"<sup>20</sup> (II 10).

MOABITE: The direct object pronoun was the objective suffix in the extant texts, as in יחלפה "and he succeeded him" (Mesha 6), יגרשה "and he expelled him" (Mesha 19), השעני "he saved me" (Mesha 4), ואחזה "and I captured it" (Mesha 11), etc.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The direct object pronoun took two forms in epigraphic Hebrew. It was either an objective suffix, as for example ברכתך "I bless you" (Arad 16:2/3, 21:2, 40:3), והבקידם "and he will hand them over" (Arad 24:14/15), צותני "you commanded me" (Arad 18:7/8), ידעתה "you know it"<sup>21</sup> (Lach. 2:6, 3:8; Arad 40:9), etc. Alternatively, the direct object pronoun appeared as the *nota accusativi* את + pronominal suffix, as for example in ברכת אתכם "I bless you" (Ajrud<sup>22</sup>), ושלחתם אתם "and you will send them" (Arad 24:13 [parallel to והבקידם]), and קראתי אתה "I read it" (Lach. 3:12, 12:4 [partially restored]). There appears to have been no difference, either syntactically<sup>23</sup> or semantically, between these two forms of the direct object pronoun.

As in all the Semitic languages,<sup>24</sup> the direct object pronoun took the form of either a suffixed objective pronoun or the *nota accusativi* + pronominal suffix. On the one hand, Phoenician, Moabite, and

probably the Deir Alla dialect appear to have used the objective suffix alone; it is uncertain, however, whether the *nota accusativi* + suffix was used in these dialects but was not preserved in the extant texts. On the other hand, Old Aramaic, Samalian, and Hebrew texts show both the objective suffix and *nota accusativi* + suffix to signify this direct object.

Although the objective suffix and *nota accusativi* + suffix functioned as the direct object pronoun in Old Aramaic, Samalian, and Hebrew, these dialects do not necessarily exhibit identical usage. In Old Aramaic, as in Akkadian, Ugaritic, Ethiopic, and Arabic, the *nota accusativi* + suffix lent added emphasis to the direct object pronoun. In Hebrew, however, the emphatic nature of the *nota accusativi* + suffix had weakened considerably; the objective suffix and *nota accusativi* + suffix appear to have been interchangeable. Finally, the evidence for the distribution of the two forms in Samalian is too meager to admit any conclusions. The use of the *nota accusativi* + suffix, then, varied considerably within these dialects.

## 2. The demonstrative pronoun: The agreement or nonagreement between a noun and appositional demonstrative with respect to determination.<sup>25</sup>

BYBLIAN: Undetermined noun + demonstrative pronoun, as in אֶרֶץ אֲחִירֹם "this coffin" (Ahirom 2).<sup>26</sup> The other example of a noun + appositional demonstrative in Old Byblian—כָּל מַפְלֵת הַבָּתִּים אֵל "all the ruins of these houses" (Yehimilk 2/3)—may have been subject to different syntactic rules.<sup>27</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: Determined noun + simple demonstrative pronoun, as in הַסֵּפֶר זֶ "this inscription" (Kilamu 15), הָעִיר זֶ "this city" (Karatepe A II 9.17, etc.), הַשַּׁעַר זֶ "this gate" (Karatepe A III 15.18), etc. In וְעַם זֶ "and this people" (Karatepe A III 7/8, C IV 7), however, the definite article syncopated between short vowels;<sup>28</sup> it does not contradict the general Phoenician rule that the demonstrative pronoun was preceded by a determined noun.

ARAMAIC: Determined noun + demonstrative pronoun, as in הַזֶּה נִצְבָּא זֶה "this stele" (Zkr B 14.18.19; Sf. I C 17), הַזֶּה בֵּיתָא זֶה "this house" (Br-Rkb 1:20), דְּמוּתָא זֶה "this image" (Fekh. 15), etc.

SAMALIAN: "Undetermined" noun + demonstrative pronoun, as in הַזֶּה נִצְבָּא "this stele" (H 1; P 1.20), אֵלֶּה דְּבָרָא "these words" (H 29), etc.<sup>29</sup> The absence of a defined noun in this construction is not

significant since Samalian had no definite article.<sup>30</sup> This Samalian construction, therefore, differed from parallel Old Byblian constructions since Old Byblian had a definite article but did not employ it in this construction.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: Evidence uncertain. If the reading of l 2, proposed by Caquot and Lemaire<sup>31</sup> and McCarter<sup>32</sup> is correct, the syntax of כַּמְלִי אֵל "according to these words" would be determined noun + simple demonstrative pronoun. Yet the reading and interpretation of this passage are unclear.<sup>33</sup>

MOABITE: Determined noun + simple demonstrative pronoun, as in הַבִּמְתָּ זֹאת "this highplace" (Mesha 3).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Determined noun + definite article + demonstrative pronoun, as in הַעֵת הַזֹּאת "this season" (Lach. 6:2) and הַחֹדֶר הַזֶּה "this room" (el-Qom 1:3). The definite article modifying the noun preceding the demonstrative was transferred to the demonstrative, on analogy with the model of the determined noun + determined adjective.<sup>34</sup> Thus, since הַבַּיִת הַטֵּב "the good house", so too "this house" became הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה. Cf. קִצְרִי זֶה "this harvest of mine" (Yavneh-Yam 1:9), in which the transference could not have taken place.

In the early period, however, Hebrew may have resembled Old Byblian if the reading בַּת הַבַּיִת "this house/bath" (Hazor 3<sup>35</sup>) is correct. The analogical form הַזֶּה, then, would have developed between the mid-ninth and mid-eighth centuries B.C.E.

Three forms of the noun + demonstrative appeared in the first-millennium NWS dialects. An undetermined noun may have been followed by a simple demonstrative pronoun, as in Old Byblian, early Hebrew (?), and Samalian; in Samalian, the absence of determination is meaningless since the dialect had no definite article. In standard Phoenician, Aramaic, Moabite, and possibly the Deir Alla dialect, a definite article appeared before the modified noun; since the noun was determined by construction, the definite article was, strictly speaking, redundant.<sup>36</sup> The appearance of the article in comparable Arabic constructions suggests a common West Semitic development.<sup>37</sup> Finally, in Hebrew, a determined noun was followed by a demonstrative with prefixed definite article; this construction was an inner-Hebrew analogical formation.

### 3a. The noun: The periphrastic genitive (nonconstruct state).<sup>38</sup>

BYBLIAN: No evidence.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: There were two forms of the periphrastic genitive in standard Phoenician. In one, the relative particle was followed by the dative ל + PN, as in *בעל צמד אש לגבר* "Baal-Šamad who (belongs) to Gabbar" (Kilamu 15) and *בעל חמק אש לבמה* "Baal-Ḥamman who (belongs) to *Bmh*" (Kilamu 16).<sup>39</sup> The other periphrastic genitive had a special genitive particle ש, as in the eighth-century seal *חתם שצור* "the seal of Šry."<sup>40</sup> This use of a special genitive particle foreshadows the later Punic distinction between the relative *אש* and the genitive *ש*.<sup>41</sup>

ARAMAIC: The relative *זי* functioned as a genitive particle at Tell Fekheriyeh (e.g., *דמותא זי הדריסעי* "the image of *Hdys'y*" [l. 1] and *שבת זי נירגל* "the scourge of Nergal" [l. 23]), Tell Halaf (e.g., . . . *זי מלך בבל* "grain of 'lmlk'" [Ost. 3 Obv. 1/2]), Palestine (*זי מלך בבל* "of the king of Babylon" [Adon 4]<sup>42</sup>), and possibly at Deir Alla (*זי שרעא* "of Šr"<sup>43</sup> [Clay Text 1]<sup>43</sup>). All other examples of a genitive *זי* are dubious.<sup>44</sup> Further, the existence of a genitive *ש* has been conclusively disproven by Kaufman.<sup>45</sup>

SAMALIAN: There are no examples of a periphrastic genitive in Samalian.<sup>46</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence. For genitive *זי* in Clay Text I, see above under Aramaic.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: Like BH,<sup>47</sup> a periphrastic genitive occurred in the relative particle + ל + proper name, for example *אשר ל'לארן גדי[הו]* "which (belongs) to A. G." (Arad 71:2/3). If Naveh's reading<sup>48</sup> of Beit Lei A 1/2 is correct—*הרי יהוד לו לאלהי ירושלם* "the mountains of Judah are his, the God of Jerusalem's"—the periphrastic genitive may have appeared without the relative particle. Admittedly, the reading and syntax of the inscription, as interpreted by Naveh, are difficult.<sup>49</sup>

According to the available evidence, the periphrastic genitive assumed three forms in the first-millennium NWS dialects. The relative particle functioned as a genitive particle in a few Old Aramaic

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: The evidence is ambiguous. The phrase *בְּקִרְיָאִשֶׁר* "in (the) cities which" (Mesha 29)<sup>58</sup> may conceal a definite article since, due to Moabite phonetic rules, the definite article *he* syncopated after the preposition *beth*.<sup>59</sup> Additional evidence is needed to resolve the question of the status of the noun.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The nominal antecedent of the relative clause was either undefined (as for example in *דְּבָרִי אֲשֶׁר* "something which" [Lach. 2:6]) or defined (for example *אִישׁ הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר* "the man who" [Silwan B 2] and *אֵת הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר* "the evil thing which" [Arad 40:15]). Both epigraphic and biblical<sup>60</sup> Hebrew texts indicate that the presence or absence of the definite article was conditioned by the sense the author wished to convey, not by the construction alone.

In NWS, the nominal antecedent of a relative clause was either determined or undetermined. In Old Aramaic it was determined in every clause but two (Sf. I B 31 = I C 20; Fekh. 23); determination was demanded by the relative construction itself.<sup>61</sup> In Byblian, and twice in Old Aramaic, the nominal antecedent was undetermined. It is unclear, however, whether the noun was absolute or bound to the relative particle.<sup>62</sup> Finally, in Hebrew and (possibly) standard Phoenician, the presence or absence of a determined nominal antecedent was demanded not by mere construction, but by sense. The dialectal status of Moabite, in this respect, is unknown.

#### 4a. Negations: The negation of the finite verb (nonprohibition).

BYBLIAN: No evidence from the early period. In a later Byblian text, however, the negative *אֵבֶל* < \**i* + \**bal*<sup>63</sup> appeared, followed by an imperfect (Yehawmilk 13).

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: *בֹּל* negated perfects<sup>64</sup> (Kilamu 2.3, etc.; Karatepe A I 19, II 16, etc.) and imperfects (Arsl.T. 1:6.8), as well as nouns (Karatepe A I 15).

ARAMAIC: *לֹ* (Sf. I A 28.28, B 21, etc.; Nerab 2:6, etc.).

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: 𐤁 (I 3 [?]; II 7.7.9.9).

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: 𐤁 (Lach. 2:6, 3:8, etc.; Yavneh-Yam 1:12.14; etc.).

The scanty evidence of the negative of finite verbs in the first-millennium NWS dialects reflects a twofold dialectal division. The majority of dialects—Aramaic, Deir Alla, and Hebrew—used (𐤁)<sup>65</sup> to negate finite verbs. Phoenician dialects, however, adopted different negatives—𐤁 in standard Phoenician and 𐤁𐤁\* in Byblian. While most Semitic languages use *\*lā* in this function, other negations appear as well.<sup>66</sup> Each NWS negation, in fact, finds a counterpart in other languages in this usage.

#### 4b. The negation of the participle.

BYBLIAN: No evidence.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: In an early fifth-century text, 𐤁 negates the participle (Eshmunazor 5).<sup>67</sup> Whether 𐤁 negated participles in the early period, however, cannot be determined with any certainty.

ARAMAIC: 𐤁, as in Sf. II C 8.

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: 𐤁, in the construction 𐤁 + subjective suffix + participle, as in 𐤁𐤁𐤍.𐤔𐤏𐤕𐤕 "we are not able to send" (Arad 40:13/14) and 𐤁𐤁𐤍.𐤔𐤏𐤕 "I cannot send" (Lach. 4:7/8). The construction is similarly found in BH.<sup>68</sup> No example of a simple negated participle is attested in the epigraphic corpus.

According to the scanty evidence, the NWS dialects did not negate participles uniformly. In Aramaic, the particle *\*lā* was used. In standard Phoenician, it was 𐤁 (cf. Eth. [𐤁] "not" and Akk. *ay/ê* "may . . . not"). In Hebrew, the term for nonexistence, 𐤁, served this function. This distribution suggests an independent syntactic usage in each dialect.<sup>69</sup>

#### 4c. The position of the term for nonexistence in the clause.

PHOENICIAN: No evidence.

ARAMAIC: Postpositive, as in *לִישָׁה וּבֵיתָא טַבּ* "and a good house did not exist" (Br-Rkb 1:15/16). The term for nonexistence, with resumptive suffix, followed the subject of the sentence.

SAMALIAN: No evidence.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence.

MOABITE: Postpositive, as in *וּבֵיתָא אֵין בְּקִרְבִּי הָקֵר* "and a cistern did not exist in the city" (Mesha 24). Like the example from Br-Rkb 1:15/16, the term for nonexistence followed the subject.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The term for nonexistence was always first in the clause, as for example *אֵין פֶּה כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב* "there is no silver or gold here" (Silwan B 1), *אֵין שָׁם אִישׁ* "there is no one there" (Lach. 4:5/6), and *אֵין נֹכַח לְשַׁלַּח* "we are not able to send" (Arad 40:13/14). It is possible, however, that the term for nonexistence appeared in alternative positions in epigraphic Hebrew texts which have not yet been discovered. In the Masoretic text, the term usually appears in initial position, although different positions are also possible, and prevalent.<sup>70</sup> The unanimity in the epigraphic Hebrew corpus, then, may be due to the small sample afforded by the texts.

According to the available evidence, the position of the term for nonexistence in NWS was either initial or postpositive. In Old Aramaic and Moabite, the term for nonexistence was postpositive; it immediately followed the clausal subject. In Hebrew, the term was always in initial position. Perhaps these different word orders reflect different grammatical conceptions of the term for nonexistence. It was treated as a copula, nominal element, or negative particle.

#### 5. The preposition: The repetition or nonrepetition of coordinated prepositions.

BYBLIAN: The only example of coordinated nouns in the extant Old Byblian texts is the special case of proper noun + appositional

noun. In these cases, the preposition was not repeated before each noun, as for example *אברהם.אביו* "for Ahirom, his father" (Ahirom 1) and *ארתו.גבל.לבעלת* "for Mistress-of-Byblos, his lady" (Shiptibaal 3/4; Elibaal 2 [partially restored]). It is unclear, however, whether these examples are representative of Byblian syntax. At least in biblical Hebrew,<sup>71</sup> when a title precedes a proper name, the preposition is repeated, although it is not repeated when the title follows the proper name. Since, in the Byblian examples, the title followed the proper name, a coordination of prepositions would not be expected.<sup>72</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: The repetition of prepositions appears to have been the rule, as for example in *בצדקי ובחכמתי ובנעם לבי* "because of my righteousness and because of my wisdom and because of my peace of mind" (Karatepe A I 12/13), *לדננים ולכל עמק אדן* "for the Danunians and for the entire Adana plain" (Karatepe A II 8/9), and *בשנאת וברע* "because of hatred or because of evil" (Karatepe A III 17). See also Karatepe A II 11/12, 12–14, III 10/11 = C IV 11/12, A III 19–IV 1. Cf. Kilamu 11/12.

Although each coordinated noun had a prefixed preposition in this dialect, there were two irregularities. First, the repetition of the preposition may have been optional. For example, in Karatepe A I 14, *במקמם באש* "in the places where," the preposition was repeated, whereas in Karatepe A II 3, *במקמם אש* "in the places which," it was not. Cf. similarly Karatepe C IV 12, *בעבר בעל ובעבר אלם* "because of Baal and because of the gods" (cf. Karatepe A II 11/12), in contrast to Karatepe A I 8, II 6, III 11, *בעבר בעל ואלם* "because of Baal and the gods." Clearly, the repetition of prepositions may have been determined by the stylistic preferences of the author.

The second irregularity appears also in other Canaanite dialects; the preposition was not repeated if a proper name preceded a title, as in *לעפתא.אלת ססם* "for 'pt', (the) goddess of Ssm" (Arsl.T. 1:1/2). This particular nonrepetition of prepositions tallies with both Byblian and biblical Hebrew.

ARAMAIC: A preposition stood before each nominal unit, regardless of whether this unit was a single noun.<sup>73</sup> For example, the preposition was repeated in *בארק ובשמין* "on earth and in heaven" (Sf. I A 26; cf. I. 29) and *מן בתיהם ומן יומיהם* "as to their houses and as to their days" (Sf. II C 16/17; cf. I C 15/16). When the unit was a pair of nouns, the preposition stood before each pair, as for example in *וקדם מדרך חרפת . . . וקדם נרגל ולץ וקדם שמש ונר* "and before



STANDARD PHOENICIAN: Evidence uncertain. Cross and Saley<sup>89</sup> interpreted עבר "pass (away)!" (Arsl.T. 1:20) and הלך "go (away)!" (Arsl.T. 1:21) as infinitive absolutes functioning as imperatives. While this interpretation is possible, these verbs may have been imperatives as well.<sup>90</sup> Similarly, יצא in Arsl.T. 2:3 may have been a simple perfect,<sup>91</sup> not an inf. abs.<sup>92</sup> Further, Röllig<sup>93</sup> suggested that לדר (Arsl.T. 1:27) was an inf. construct of \**rdd* "to subdue" used as an imperative. In this case, though, the reading is either לדר "for-ever," composed of the dative preposition + דר (cf. BH [dör]),<sup>94</sup> or simply לר "give birth!" < \**wld*.<sup>95</sup> Thus there are no unambiguous examples of the inf. (absolute) functioning as an imperative in standard Phoenician.

ARAMAIC: The infinitive never functioned as an imperative in Old Aramaic.

SAMALIAN: The infinitive does not appear to have functioned imperatively in Samalian. There is admittedly no infinitive absolute in the extant Samalian texts; all infinitives in these texts are construct.<sup>96</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: There is one possible example of the infinitive absolute used as an imperative.<sup>97</sup> In I 6, שם "place!" is parallel to the second person fem. sing. jussive תפרי "sew!" in the same line. Since this verb lacks a feminine ending, it cannot have been an imperative. Rather, שם may have been an infinitive absolute used as an imperative.<sup>98</sup>

MOABITE: The infinitive did not function as an imperative in the extant Moabite texts.<sup>99</sup> The present sample of infinitives, however, is too small to permit any definite conclusions.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The infinitive absolute functioned as an imperative in the Arad letters, as seen in the form נתן "give!" (Arad 1:2, 2:1, etc.) used side by side with תן "give!" (Arad 3:2, 4:1, etc.).<sup>100</sup> This particular usage, however, is infrequent in epigraphic Hebrew.<sup>101</sup>

The use of the infinitive as an imperative is a common West Semitic feature.<sup>102</sup> This feature survived in Deir Alla and Hebrew, where the infinitive absolute functioned as an imperative. In Byblian, however, it was the infinitive construct which functioned as an imperative. In Aramaic and Samalian (and Moabite?), this feature did not survive.

## 7b. The infinitive in temporal clauses.

BYBLIAN: The infinitive does not appear to have been used in forming temporal clauses in this dialect. The one possible example, כשתה "when he placed him" (Ahirom 1), is probably composed of the temporal conjunction כ + finite verb + objective suffix.<sup>103</sup> The evidence is too meager to draw any definite conclusions on this point, however.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: In the extant texts, the infinitive is not used to form temporal clauses.<sup>104</sup>

ARAMAIC: The infinitive was not used to form temporal clauses in Old Aramaic. Temporal conjunctions marked the clause.<sup>105</sup>

SAMALIAN: The infinitive was not used, at least in the extant Samalian texts, to form temporal clauses.<sup>106</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: It does not appear that the infinitive was used to form temporal clauses in this dialect. The evidence is scanty, however.

MOABITE: The infinitive was used to form temporal clauses, as in בהלתחמה "when he fought" (Mesha 19).<sup>107</sup>

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The infinitive was used to form temporal clauses in epigraphic Hebrew, as for example in כצאתי "when I left" (Arad 16:3); בחתמך "when you sealed" (Arad 13:3), etc.

According to Isserlin,<sup>108</sup> the use of the infinitive in temporal clauses distinguishes Hebrew dialects. For him, the formation of temporal clauses with a preposition + infinitive was an "upper class" speech trait, whereas the use of temporal conjunctions (as in Yavneh-Yam 1:6.8) reflects "popular" speech. Yet it is impossible to draw such far-reaching conclusions from the evidence at hand. The initial distinction between "upper class" and "popular" speech (and texts) must be demonstrated for ancient Hebrew. Moreover, the distribution of these two types of temporal clauses is not clear; further examples are needed to chart the exact socioeconomic distribution of each construction in Hebrew. Isserlin's claim for a dialectal division of Hebrew on the basis of the form of the temporal clause, then, is unproven.

The use of the infinitive in temporal clauses is an old Semitic feature, found already in Akkadian<sup>109</sup> and Ugaritic.<sup>110</sup> In NWS, this

feature was retained in southern dialects, i.e. Moabite and Hebrew. In the northern dialects of Phoenician, Aramaic, and Samalian, and probably in the peripheral dialect of Deir Alla, this feature was lost. Its survival in first-millennium NWS, then, was sporadic.

### 7c. The use of the infinitive (absolute) as a finite verb.

BYBLIAN: No evidence.<sup>111</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: The infinitive absolute functioned as a narrative, past tense, present-future verb, or subjunctive. For the infinitive absolute used as a narrative tense, see no. 8. As a present-future verbal form, Karatepe A III 12–16 is especially instructive. There, the phrase *אם . . . אש ימח . . . ושת . . . ויסע . . . ויפעל . . . וישח* “If (someone) who wipes out and places and rips out and makes and places” shows that the infinitive absolute maintained the tense of the preceding, present-future verbal form. The situation is similar in Karatepe C IV 13–16 and 17/18. The infinitive absolute also functioned as a subjunctive/precative verb in *וברך בעל כרנתריש* “and may Baal-Krntryš bless” (Karatepe A III 2/3, C III 16/17), *וכן הקרתו* “and may this city be” (Karatepe A III 7, C IV 6), and in *ומח בעל שמש* “then may Baal-of-Heaven wipe out” (Karatepe A III 18 [apodosis of a condition]). The infinitive absolute in standard Phoenician, then, had a number of usages comparable to that of the finite verb.

ARAMAIC: The infinitive absolute did not function as a finite verb in Old Aramaic.

SAMALIAN: The infinitive did not function as a finite verb in Samalian.<sup>112</sup>

AMMONITE: No evidence.<sup>113</sup>

DEIR ALLA: The infinitive did not function as a finite verb in the Deir Alla dialect.

MOABITE: The infinitive did not function as a finite verb in Moabite.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The infinitive does not function as a finite verb in the epigraphic Hebrew texts.<sup>114</sup> The one alleged example of the infinitive absolute used as a finite verb, *וַאֲסַם* in Yavneh-Yam 1:5<sup>115</sup> is doubtful. The converted imperfect appears four times in this text as the narrative, past tense; it would be odd for the author of this document to mix constructions. Thus, if *וַאֲסַם* is a verb,<sup>116</sup> it is preferable to

"he erected (it) and gave (it) to him" (Fekh. 10), ורצת "and I ran" (Br-Rkb 1:8), ושבת תלאים "and T. returned" (Sf. III 25), etc.<sup>124</sup>

The few attestations of the consecutive imperfect, in contrast to numerous examples of the historical perfect, suggest that the consecutive imperfect was already (becoming) obsolete by the ninth century (Zkr). Thereafter, the consecutive imperfect fell into total disuse. In this way, the syntactic situation in Old Aramaic of the ninth century is comparable to that of Hebrew in the sixth; the perfect usurped the function of the consecutive imperfect as a narrative, historical past tense. The occurrence of the perfect in the same syntactic position as the consecutive imperfect is especially curious. Whereas the consecutive imperfect was used only in initial position, the perfect later appears in this very position with the same "tense." In Old Aramaic, then, the perfect assumed the semantic and syntactic function of the consecutive imperfect.

SAMALIAN: The perfect,<sup>125</sup> as for example ונתן בידי "and (they) gave into my hands" (H 2; cf. I. 8), ויהקמת "and I erected" (H 14), ופשש מסגרתוהרפי "and he unlocked<sup>126</sup> the prisons and released" (P 8), etc. Alternatively, it is possible that the imperfect signified the narrative, past tense, as for example in חרב בביתו ותהרגו "you placed a sword in my house, and you killed" (P 4/5).<sup>127</sup> Yet the context of the passage is broken, and it is uncertain whether the verbs refer to past or present-future time. Furthermore, this clause may have been part of an apodosis, as inferred from the context, so that a prefixed verbal form would be expected.<sup>128</sup> If the imperfect did carry a historical past tense, the relation between *yqtl*-past and *qtl*-past, and the distribution of these two forms, are unclear. In any case, the perfect in Samalian was the regular narrative, historical past tense.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: The consecutive imperfect,<sup>129</sup> as for example יאאו "and they came" (I 1), ויאמרו "and they said" (I 2), ויקם "and he arose" (I 3), etc.

MOABITE: The consecutive imperfect,<sup>130</sup> as for example ואעש "and I made" (Mesha 3.9), ויבן "and he built" (Mesha 10), and ואהרג "and I killed" (Mesha 11.16).

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The consecutive imperfect, as for example וילכו "and they flowed" (Shiloah 4), ויקצר... ויכל "and he was harvesting and measuring" (Yavneh-Yam 1:4/5), and ויעלהו "and he brought him

up" (Lach. 4:6/7). During the course of the sixth century, however, the consecutive imperfect fell into disuse as the narrative, past tense.<sup>131</sup> The perfect took its place, as for example כתבתי "I wrote" (Lach. 4:3), חשב "he has returned" (Lach. 5:6), etc. The loss of the converted imperfect to the simple perfect is recorded in the later biblical texts as well.<sup>132</sup>

Several verbal forms functioned as the narrative, historical past tense in the first-millennium NWS dialects. Most dialects—Old Aramaic (Zkr), the Deir Alla dialect, Moabite, and Hebrew—used the old consecutive imperfect; this distribution suggests that the consecutive imperfect was a common NWS verb form. In the other dialects, the consecutive imperfect was lost. It was replaced by the perfect in Samalian, most Old Aramaic dialects (post-ninth century), and in late Hebrew (sixth century on). This replacement probably occurred independently in the different dialects.<sup>133</sup> Finally, in standard Phoenician the consecutive imperfect was replaced by the infinitive absolute; with respect to the first-millennium NWS dialects,<sup>134</sup> the use of the infinitive absolute as the narrative tense was a Phoenician syntactic trait.<sup>135</sup>

One verbal form need not be the only form capable of signifying the historical past tense within each dialect. The linguistic situation in Old Aramaic and Hebrew indicates that one verbal form can be replaced by another over a period of time. Thus, while both dialects originally had the consecutive imperfect, they lost this form to the perfect. As these dialects changed over time, they tended to lose the consecutive imperfect.

## 9. The participle: The periphrastic tense ("to be" + participle).

BYBLIAN: A periphrastic tense does not appear in the extant texts.

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: The only possible example of the periphrastic tense in this dialect is Karatepe A II 3/4, ובמקום אשר כן לפני, נשתעם "and in places which had formerly been feared."<sup>136</sup> While the author could have conveyed a similar meaning by omitting כן, its inclusion served to emphasize the continuous state of fear which these "places" had in the past. Whereas the simple perfect נשתע\* would have conveyed a one-time, past sense, the combination of

נשתעם + כן expresses an ongoing sense, comparable to the French *imparfait*.

ARAMAIC: There are no certain examples of the periphrastic tense in Old Aramaic. Greenfield<sup>137</sup> has cited one possible example in Sf. III 22, והרי חלפה "and be his successor!" Yet while this phrase is composed of "to be" + participle,<sup>138</sup> the participle is nominal, not verbal.<sup>139</sup> Thus, Sf. III 22 is not an example of the periphrastic tense but is equivalent to "be!" + noun.

SAMALIAN: No example of the periphrastic tense appears in the extant Samalian texts.

AMMONITE: No example of the periphrastic tense appears in the extant Ammonite texts. The size of the corpus, however, is small.

DEIR ALLA: No example of the periphrastic tense appears in the extant Deir Alla texts. The absence of a periphrastic tense may, however, be accidental.

MOABITE: No example of the periphrastic tense appears in the extant Moabite texts. The absence of a periphrastic tense may, however, be accidental.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: One example of the periphrastic tense appears in Yavneh-Yam 1:2/3,<sup>140</sup> עבדך קצר הויה עבדך "as for your servant, your servant was harvesting." Like the periphrastic tense in Karatepe A II 3/4, this example in Hebrew stressed the continuousness of the action. While the simple perfect would have conveyed a single action at a single point in time, the periphrastic tense emphasized that the harvesting was a habitual action. Cf. similarly in Mishnaic Hebrew, as studied by Greenfield.<sup>141</sup>

Use of the periphrastic tense is sporadically attested during this period in the history of NWS dialects. Of the first-millennium dialects, only standard Phoenician and Hebrew show any trace of this feature. Each of these two dialects, moreover, exhibits only one example of the periphrastic tense. In the later periods, the periphrastic tense became common in Hebrew and Aramaic dialects independently.<sup>142</sup>

## 10. The verb "to be able" + complementary verb.

PHOENICIAN: יכל + infinitive. The only example of this construction is the uncertain passage in Karatepe A II 5/6, אשה תכל חר

ירל, which Gordon<sup>143</sup> and Rosenthal<sup>144</sup> translated "(where) a woman was able to stroll. . . ." If חר is cognate to Arabic \**hyd* "to stray,"<sup>145</sup> the complete construction תכלחר may be interpreted in two ways. The verbal form חר may be an infinitive absolute, or infinitive construct without prefixed *lamedh*.<sup>146</sup> Alternatively, the *lamedh* of תכל may have been shared, acting as both the final radical of \**ykl* and as the preposition "to" in the following infinitive; the *lamedh*, then, written once, acted as two letters.<sup>147</sup> In view of the complementary infinitive in ישמע אדם ללכת "a man feared to walk" (Karatepe A II 4), the latter interpretation is preferable.<sup>148</sup>

ARAMAIC: כהל + imperfect, as in פלאכהל לאשלח "thus I will not be able to send" (Sf. II B 6), [ל]ישלח. . . וליכהל "and he will not be able to send" (Sf. I B 25), etc. This construction of כהל + asyndetic imperfect is also found in the later BMAP 2:13, 3:14.17, etc.<sup>149</sup>

A second construction, "to be able" + complementary infinitive, may be attested in Sf. I B 34. Most scholars<sup>150</sup> read . . . ליכ[הל] למשלח "he will not be able to send," and interpreted the construction as כהל + infinitive; cf. the later Ahiqar 17 and Dan. 2:10.<sup>151</sup> Degen<sup>152</sup> was sensitive to the syntax of this construction. Observing that כהל is always followed by an imperfect in Old Aramaic, and also recognizing that the *mem* in למשלח is very faint, he proposed the reading לישלח. If confirmed,<sup>153</sup> this reading would remove the only possible example of כהל + infinitive in the Old Aramaic corpus.

SAMALIAN: No evidence. Cf., however, the complementary infinitive in לאכל.לה.לאיתן.א[ל]יתן "may he not allow him to eat" (H 23) and קרני לבנא "he summoned me to build" (H 13).

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence. The restoration ליכ[ל.לאכל] "and he was unable to eat" (I 3)<sup>154</sup> is hypothetical.

MOABITE: No evidence.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: יכל + *lamedh* + infinitive construct, as in אי[נע]. יכלם.לשלח "we are not able to send" (Arad 40:13/14), as well as similar constructions in BH.

The evidence of three dialects, with respect to the syntax of the construction "to be able to . . .," suggests a bipartite division within NWS. In Phoenician, Hebrew, and possibly Samalian, the construction was יכל + infinitive construct. In Old Aramaic, the construction took the form כהל + (asyndetic) imperfect. And within

In the eastern and southern regions, however, the verb did not necessarily stand in initial position. In the Adon letter, for example, the verb followed the subject in ll. 4.6.8<sup>160</sup> although each passage was a main clause. In the Fekh. text, the verb appeared in medial (e.g., ll. 17.18.19, etc.) and final position (e.g., ll. 15.15, etc.).<sup>161</sup> And in Halaf Ost. 1 Rev. 1/2, the verb stood in final position. Similarly, in contrast to Nerab 1:11, 2:3.6 where the verb stood first, in Nerab 1:1/2.9.10/11, 2:4.5/6.7.9.10 the verb was not initial.<sup>162</sup> Cf. the Old Aramaic text published by Bordreuil,<sup>163</sup> where the verb stood first in ll. 6.10 and last in l. 2.<sup>164</sup> Whereas, then, western Old Aramaic texts had predominantly verb-initial syntax (excepting emphatic positioning), eastern and southern Old Aramaic texts reflect a fluidity in verb placement;<sup>165</sup> in these eastern and southern texts, the verb could appear in initial, medial, or final position, without any semantic difference.

**SAMALIAN** The verb predominantly stood in initial position in Samalian, as for example in H 2.3.4.8, etc., and P 2.3.3.4, etc.<sup>166</sup> When the verb was not initial, however, the word which stood in initial position received special stress, as for example in H 24, P 14, and 1/2. In P 1, the syntax O-V may reflect the added stress on the object. Alternatively, the clause may be an unmarked relative clause, "this stele (which) Br-Rkb set up." Thus Samalian syntax generally reflects the verb-initial pattern.

**AMMONITE:** The verb stood first in the sentence, as in Sir. 6-8 and Cit. 6. If, however, Horn's<sup>167</sup> restoration מִלְכֹם בְּנֵה לָךְ "Milkom has built for you" (Cit. 1) is correct, S may have preceded V in Ammonite.

**DEIR ALLA:**<sup>168</sup> The verb generally stood first in the sentence, as for example in I 2.5.6, etc., and II 6.11.12, etc. In several cases, however, V followed S, without any apparent semantic difference. Thus מֶלְכִין יִרְאוּ (II 13) appears to mean "(the) kings will see," and וְקוֹל רִחְמִין יַעֲנֶה "and the voice of (the) vultures will answer" (I 8). Cf. similarly I 7/8 and (?) Xd 2. The S-V syntax in I 5, however, may reflect a subordinate clause. In short, while the Deir Alla syntax was usually verb-initial, V could follow S.

**MOABITE:** All main clauses in Moabite reflect verb-initial syntax, as in Mesha 5.6.7.8/9, etc. The only<sup>169</sup> deviation from this pattern appeared when the independent pronoun is found with the finite verb (Mesha 2/3. 21.22, etc.); in these cases, the pronoun always preceded the verb for emphatic stress. Cf. similarly Mesha 17.



EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The verb generally stood in initial position in the epigraphic texts. Thus, in the texts from Arad (e.g., 2:1–4, 3:5/6, 5:2/3, etc.), Jerusalem (e.g., Shiloah 3.4), Lachish (e.g., 2:4, 6:13/14), and Ajrud (e.g., בִּרְךְ יָמָם), verb-initial syntax is apparent. When either the subject<sup>170</sup> or object<sup>171</sup> was placed before the verb, that particular element was given added emphasis. Yet there are very few examples of the postponement of the verb to either medial or final position in the Hebrew texts.

The NWS dialects of the first-millennium divide into two groups, depending upon the position the verb commonly occupied in main clauses. Most dialects exhibit verb-initial syntax; if preceded by any part of speech, the verb followed simple conjunctions or particles. This verb-initial syntax is found in Phoenician dialects, Old Aramaic from the (north-) western region, Samalian, Ammonite (?), the Deir Alla dialect, Moabite, and Hebrew. Comparative evidence suggests that verb-initial word order is the standard West Semitic pattern.<sup>172</sup>

In the eastern and southern regions of Old Aramaic, this verb-initial syntax was more flexible. The verb could appear in either medial or final position, in addition to the old initial position, without affecting the meaning of the main clause. This flexibility was also found in the Deir Alla texts, in which several examples of S-V syntax appeared in main clauses.

In view of the geographic position of Deir Alla in the south-eastern region of Syria-Palestine, and the other linguistic features it shares with Old Aramaic,<sup>173</sup> the freedom in the placement of the verb in Deir Alla can be related to the identical phenomenon in eastern and southern Syro-Palestinian Old Aramaic. In terms of dialect geography, this feature may have spread from eastern/southern Aramaic to Deir Alla, or from an external source to eastern/southern Aramaic and Deir Alla simultaneously.<sup>174</sup> Alternatively, this syntax may have arisen independently in both dialects.<sup>175</sup>

## 12. The marking or nonmarking of the definite, nominal direct object.

BYBLIAN: The definite, nominal direct object was unmarked in Old Byblian, as for example *על גבלי יגל ארץ ון* 'and if he

attacks Byblos and uncovers this coffin" (Ahirom 2) and *ימתי יחמלק ושנתו יארך* "may they lengthen the days of Yehimilk and his years" (Yehimilk 3–5; cf. Shiptibaal 4–5). In later Byblian, this direct object could be introduced by the *nota accusativi*, as in standard Phoenician.<sup>176</sup>

STANDARD PHOENICIAN: The definite, nominal direct object was usually unmarked in standard Phoenician. In the Karatepe inscription, however, it was occasionally introduced by the *nota accusativi*. For example, when the author himself was the direct object of a verb, the *nota accusativi* introduced his name (Karatepe A III 3, C III 17). When, on the contrary, the author's enemies were the direct object, they were preceded by the *nota accusativi* (Karatepe A III 19–IV 1; cf. Yehawmilk 15). Or if the definite direct object was particularly contrastive, the object received the *nota accusativi* (Karatepe C IV 18/19). Finally, if the object was the focus, or emphasis, of the sentence, it was marked by the *nota accusativi* (Karatepe A I 3/4, III 14/15 = C IV 17). In standard Phoenician, then, the *nota accusativi* marked objects that were of particular interest to the author;<sup>177</sup> its use was subject to individual style.

ARAMAIC: As in standard Phoenician, the definite, nominal direct object was usually unmarked. The *nota accusativi* appeared only in the Sfire and Zkr inscriptions. In Sfire, the *nota accusativi* is found when the direct object was either Matti'el and his family (Sf. I B 32/33, II C 14; cf. III 13) or Bar-Ga'yah and his realm (Sf. II C 5/6). In Zkr's inscription, *אית* appeared only before nouns signifying Zkr's own achievements (Zkr B 5.10.11 [?].15.16/17; cf. Zkr B 19); one striking exception is *אנן.ה.בני.ת.חזרך* "I built Hazrek" (Zkr B 3/4), where the independent pronoun preceded the verb. According to present evidence, then, the *nota accusativi* in Old Aramaic functioned similarly to its standard Phoenician counterpart: It marked direct objects that were of particular interest to the author.

In one instance, the definite, nominal direct object may have been introduced by *lamedh*. In Sf. I C 4/5, *לטבת[א] יעבד[נ]* "may they make good relations" may exhibit O-V syntax, in which the direct object was preceded by *lamedh*.<sup>178</sup> Yet since this syntactic feature is common in later East Aramaic dialects,<sup>179</sup> it would be odd for it to appear in this early Aramaic text from the West.<sup>180</sup>

SAMALIAN: The definite, nominal direct object was unmarked, as for example in *עד.יזכר.נבש.פנמו* "in order that he remember the soul of Panammu" (H 17), and *והרג.אבה.ברצר* "and he killed his father,

*Bršr*'' (P 3), והרפי שבי יאדי ''and he released the captives of *Y'dy*'' (P 8), etc.

AMMONITE: No evidence.

DEIR ALLA: No evidence. Since no definite, nominal direct objects appeared in the extant texts, the absence of a *nota accusativi* may be accidental.

MOABITE: The definite, nominal direct object was marked or unmarked, with almost equal frequency. The definite object was not marked when the subjective independent pronoun accompanied the finite verb, as in אנך בנתי ערער ''I built Aroer'' (Mesha 26) and אנך בנתי בצר ''I built Bezer'' (Mesha 27);<sup>181</sup> cf. Zkr B 3/4. Otherwise, the *nota accusativi* introduced places oppressed (e.g., וירש עמרי את כל ארץ מדיבא ''Omri took possession of the whole land of Medaba'' [Mesha 7/8; cf. ll. 5.6.14]) and rebuilt (e.g., ואנך בנתי באלמון ''I built Baalmaon'' [Mesha 9; cf. ll. 9/10.10/11.18/19]). Similarly, examples of great achievement were marked with את, as in ואהרג את כל העם ''and I killed the entire people'' (Mesha 11) and ואשב בה את אש שרן ואת אש מחרת ''and I settled in it *Šrn*-ites and *Mhrt*-ites'' (Mesha 13/14; cf. ll. 12.30/31). Apparently, examples of lesser achievement were unmarked, as וועש הבמת זאת ''and I made this highplace'' (Mesha 3) and וועש בה האשור ''and I made the cistern in it'' (Mesha 9). Thus, use of the *nota accusativi* was not construction-bound,<sup>182</sup> since it appeared after various verbal forms in all three persons. Rather, the *nota accusativi* marked objects in which the author was particularly interested. In this way, the *nota accusativi* and independent subjective pronoun were mutually exclusive; both parts of speech were, in effect, emphatic.

EDOMITE: No evidence.

HEBREW: The *nota accusativi* usually introduced the definite, nominal direct object. Examples of the nonmarking of the object are relatively few, as for example וכתב שם היום ''and write the name of the day!'' (Arad 1:3/4), השב עבדך הספרים ''your servant has returned the letters'' (Lach. 5:6/7), etc.<sup>183</sup> In the majority of cases, את introduced the object, as in ישמע יהוה את אדני ''may Yahweh cause my lord to hear'' (Lach. 2:1/2, 8 Obv. 1, etc.), זכר אדני את [ע]בדה ''my lord remembered his servant'' (Lach. 2:4/5), שלח את נחם ''send Nahum!'' (Arad 16:9/10), ושלחתי את ה[כ]סף ''and I sent the silver'' (Arad 16:4/5), לא נראה את עזקה ''we cannot see Azeqah'' (Lach. 4:12/13), and especially אשר יפתח את זאת ''who opens this'' (Silwan B 2/3). These latter examples suggest that the category of ''defi-

Within that group of dialects which introduced the apodosis with a conjunction, different conjunctions were used. Old Aramaic and Samalian, which possessed the conjunction *\*pa* "thus, therefore," used this conjunction to mark the apodosis. This use of *\*pa* is a common West Semitic feature (cf. the Arabic *fa* of apodosis). In those dialects which lacked *\*pa*, however, *\*wa* performed this function, as in standard Phoenician and Hebrew. Here too, *\*wa* is a common clausal conjunction. The particle used to mark the apodosis, then, depended upon the inventory of conjunctive particles in the individual dialects.

### Notes to Chapter 4

1. See Helmer Ringgren, "A Note on the Karatepe Text," *Oriens* 2 (1949): 127–128.
2. André Dupont-Sommer, "Azitawadda, roi des Danouniens. Étude sur les inscriptions phéniciennes de Karatepe," *RA* 42 (1948): 171; idem, "Etude du texte phénicien des inscriptions de Karatepe," *Oriens* 2 (1949): 126; and A. M. Honeyman, "Phoenician Inscriptions from Karatepe," *Le Muséon* 61 (1948): 54. Cf. Stanislaw Segert, *A Grammar of Phoenician and Punic* (Munich: C. H. Beck, 1976), §§74.262, 75.473, 64.624.2.
3. Additional texts are cited by Ringgren, *Oriens* 2 (1949): 127–128; and by Dupont-Sommer, *Oriens* 2 (1949): 126. Cf. Frank M. Cross, "Leaves from an Epigraphist's Notebook," *CBQ* 36 (1974): 489 n. 31.
4. Eduard Y. Kutscher, *A History of Aramaic*. Part 1: *Old Aramaic, Jaudic, Official Aramaic (Biblical Aramaic excepted)* (Jerusalem: Akadamon, 1972), pp. 117–118 (in Hebrew). Cf. Stephen A. Kaufman, *The Akkadian Influences on Aramaic*, Assyriological Studies, vol. 19 (Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press, 1974), pp. 131–132.
5. Hans Bauer and Pontus Leander, *Grammatik des Biblisch-Aramäischen* (Halle an der Saale: Max Niemeyer, 1927), §90j.
6. Cf. Theodor Nöldeke, *Die Inschrift des Königs Mesa von Moab* (Kiel: Schwers'sche Buchhandlung, 1870), p. 35, against which see Chapter 3, nos. 23i and 11a.
7. In Frank M. Cross and David N. Freedman, *EHO*, p. 47 n. 11. See also *KAI* 2:181–182.
8. Cross, "The Cave Inscriptions from Khirbet Beit Lei," in *Near Eastern Archaeology in the Twentieth Century*, ed. James A. Sanders (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1970), p. 305 n. 3.
9. The reading is Naveh's, in "Old Hebrew Inscriptions in a Burial Cave," *IEJ* 13 (1963): 84.
10. See Yohanan Aharoni, *Arad Inscriptions* (Jerusalem: The Bialik Institute and the Israel Exploration Society, 1975), p. 34 (in Hebrew). For the identical BH usage, see *GKC* §90c.
11. Cross, in *Near Eastern Archaeology*, p. 301.

12. Carl Brockelmann, *GvG* 2:§152. For the Akkadian usage, see Kaufman, *Akkadian Influences*, pp. 131–132.
13. Note the translation of Franz Rosenthal, "Notes on the Third Aramaic Inscription from Sefire-Sûjin," *BASOR* 158 (1960): 29; and idem, "Canaanite and Aramaic Inscriptions," in *ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 661.
14. For the emphatic אֵם in Aramaic, see no. 12 below.
15. For a discussion of the form, see Chapter 3, no. 15a.
16. Cross, "Epigraphic Notes on the Ammān Citadel Inscription," *BASOR* 193 (1969): 17.
17. Raphael Kutscher, "A New Inscription from 'Amman," *Qadmoniot* 5 (1972): 27, 28 (in Hebrew).
18. Emile Puech and Alexander Rofé, "L'inscription de la citadelle d'Amman," *RB* 80 (1973): 536.
19. See Chapter 3, nos. 11a and 11b.
20. So Jo Ann Carlton (Hackett), "Studies in the Plaster Text from Tell Deir 'Allā" (Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1980), pp. 46, 140; and Baruch A. Levine, "The Deir 'Alla Plaster Inscriptions," *JAOS* 101 (1981): 200.
21. On ידעתה, see Ziony Zevit, *Matres Lectionis in Ancient Hebrew Epigraphs*, ASOR Monograph Series, vol. 2 (Cambridge: ASOR, 1980), p. 31; and H. Van Dyke Parunak, "The Orthography of the Arad Ostraca," *BASOR* 230 (1978): 28.
22. Ze'ev Meshel and Carol Meyers, "The Name of God in the Wilderness of Zin," *BA* 39 (1976): 10, fig. 4.
23. Within the confines of the available evidence. For conditions requiring use of the *nota accusativi* + suffix, see *GKC* §117e.
24. For comparative evidence, see Brockelmann, *GvG* 2:§215.
25. See Zellig S. Harris, *Development of the Canaanite Dialects*, American Oriental Series, vol. 16 (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1939), pp. 68–69.
26. The article began to be used with the noun in the later period. See, for example, המשכב הַן "this coffin" (KAI 9 A 1), הערפת הַן "this colonnade" (Yehawmilk 6), etc.
27. Thomas O. Lambdin, "The Junctural Origin of the West Semitic Definite Article," in *Near Eastern Studies in Honor of William Foxwell Albright*, ed. Hans Goedicke (Baltimore/London: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1971), pp. 328–329 with n. 23. Cf. Harris, *A Grammar of the Phoenician Language*, American Oriental Series, vol. 8 (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1936), pp. 56, 66; and Johannes Friedrich and Wolfgang Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §300.
28. See Chapter 2, no. 16.
29. See already J. Halévy, "Les Deux Inscriptions hétéennes de Zindjirli," *RS* 1 (1893): 143.
30. See Chapter 3, no. 5, for the NWS definite article.
31. André Caquot and André Lemaire, "Les textes araméens de Deir 'Alla," *Syria* 54 (1977): 194.
32. P. Kyle McCarter, "The Balaam Texts from Deir 'Allā: The First Combination," *BASOR* 239 (1980): 51, 52.



33. See Chapter 3, no. 2c with nn. 38–41.
34. Harris, *Development*, p. 69.
35. See above, p. 149 n. 28.
36. Lambdin, in *Near Eastern Studies* . . . Albright, p. 321.
37. *Ibid.*, pp. 315–333, esp. pp. 321–324.
38. Excluding seals with ל + PN.
39. Segert, *Grammar*, §61.46. Cf. *ibid.*, §15.1.
40. Published by Dupont-Sommer, "Deux nouvelles inscriptions sémitiques trouvées en Cilicie," *JKF* 1 (1950): 43–45. See also Giovanni Garbini, "I dialetti del fenicio," *AION* 27 (1977): 291 with n. 30. This interpretation presumes, of course, that ש was not part of the name.
41. See Harris, *Grammar*, pp. 63–64; and Segert, *Grammar*, §75.721.23. Cf. Stanley Gevirtz, "On the Etymology of the Phoenician Particle שָׁא," *JNES* 16 (1957): 124 n. 8.
42. So, for example, Dupont-Sommer, "Un papyrus araméen d'époque saïte découvert à Saqqarah," *Semítica* 1 (1948): 49; H. L. Ginsberg, "An Aramaic Contemporary of the Lachish Letters," *BASOR* 111 (1948): 26 (translation only); and *KAI* 2:313.
43. J. Hoftijzer, "Interpretation and Grammar," in *Aramaic Texts from Deir 'Alla*, ed. J. Hoftijzer and G. van der Kooij. *Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui*, vol. 19 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1976), p. 267. See also p. 11.
44. For the phrase וְיִסְחָרְתִּי "of my vicinity" (Sf. III 7/8), see Kaufman, *Akkadian Influences*, p. 130 n. 74. A periphrastic possessive in י + ל + suffix, as in Sf. III 20 and Nerab 1:14 (so Segert, *Altaramäische Grammatik* [Leipzig: VEB Verlag Enzyklopädie, 1975], §6.2.5.6) is also dubious since, instead of meaning "my, yours," etc., the construction is a verbless clause. In Sf. III 20, for example, וְיִסְחָרְתִּי לִי means "if that which is mine is returned to me," and similarly Nerab 1:14 means "that which is yours will be protected." The relative י functions as an independent relative, as the orthography with *yodh* shows. Both examples, then, are verbless clauses acting as the subject of the verb. The particle י retains its relative force. Cf. Paul Joüon, *Grammaire de l'hébreu biblique* (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1923), §§1581, 145a.
45. Kaufman, "Si'gabbar, Priest of Sahr in Nerab," *JAOS* 90 (1970): 270–271; and *idem*, "[Review of Segert, *Grammatik*]," *BiOr* 34 (1977): 94.
46. Paul-E. Dion, *La langue de Ya'udi* (Waterloo, Ont.: The Corporation for the Publication of Academic Studies in Religion in Canada, 1974), pp. 235–236.
47. *GKC* §129h.
48. Naveh, *IEJ* 13 (1963): 84.
49. See Cross, in *Near Eastern Archaeology*, p. 301.
50. Brockelmann, *GvG* 2:§§164–167.
51. Excluding the construction כֹּל "every, any" + noun + relative.
52. See Lambdin, in *Near Eastern Studies* . . . Albright, pp. 318–319 with n. 7. Cf. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §293. For the determined sense, see Josh. 24:14 and I Sam. 24:6; cf. Ex. 21:28, Lev. 26:5, and Num. 21:9.

53. For this reason, the problematic *הבִּרְךְ בַּעַל* (Karatepe A 1 1) is best interpreted as cognate to Akkadian *abarakku*. See above, pp. 130, 161 n. 340.

54. See Chapter 2, no. 16.

55. Cf. Lambdin, in *Near Eastern Studies* . . . Albright, pp. 321–322.

56. For suggestions, see *ibid.*, p. 318 n. 7; and Klaus Beyer, "[Review of Degen, *Grammatik*]," *ZDMG* 120 (1970): 202, on Sfire; and Kaufman, "Reflections on the Assyrian-Aramaic Bilingual from Tell Fakhariyeh," *Maarav* 3 (1982): 148 n. 27, on Fekh. 23.

57. The absence of a definite article on *סִמָּר* is yet another feature which isolates the dialect of the Kilamu scepter inscription from standard Phoenician. For other traits, see Kaufman, *Akkadian Influences*, p. 8 n. 7.

58. See Francis I. Andersen, "Moabite Syntax," *Or* 35 (1966): 95–96, for a discussion of the possible interpretations.

59. See Chapter 2, no. 16.

60. Jöüon, *Grammaire*, §158f.

61. Lambdin, in *Near Eastern Studies* . . . Albright, pp. 318–319, 321–322.

62. See above, nn. 52, 56.

63. Harris, *Grammar*, p. 62.

64. Cf. *ibid.*

65. Within that group of dialects which used a form of the *lamedh* as the negation, only Hebrew had a final *aleph* in this period. The presence of the final *aleph*, however, does not reflect a genetic difference from the Aramaic-Deir Alla -*l*; it was merely a phonetic, syllable-closing *aleph*. Such a syllable-closing *aleph* is generally found after *a*-vowels in accented, final position (see Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§§37dα, 107tα). For example, the Arabic-Ethiopic demonstrative [dā, zā] appeared in late Byblian and Old Aramaic as *𐤌* "this" (fem. sing.), with final *aleph*; cf. Moabite, Hebrew, and Fekh.-Aramaic *𐤌* "this" (fem. sing.). Similarly, the conjunction *\*pa* of Arabic and Ugaritic appeared in Samalian as *𐤐* three times, two of which were followed by a word divider, indicating the independent status of the word (Rosenthal, "[Review of Dion, *La langue*]," *JBL* 95 [1976]: 154). Further, the Hebrew particle of entreaty *𐤎*- is cognate to EA *-na*. These examples indicate that the final *aleph* in the Hebrew negation was merely a phonological development; when a word ended in [ā, a], and when that syllable was stressed, that final syllable could be closed with an *aleph*. This *aleph*, however, appeared only on words which themselves received an added stress, due either to the meaning or syntactic position of the word. Cf. Lambdin, in *Near Eastern Studies* . . . Albright, p. 323 with n. 14.

66. Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§253A; 2:§§105–109.

67. Ginsberg, "[Review of Harris, *Grammar*]," *JBL* 56 (1937): 140; and *idem*, "Ugaritico-Phoenicia," *JANES* 5 (1973): 144 n. 58. Ginsberg credited Hoffmann (*Über einige phön. Inschriften*, p. 41) with first interpreting the syntax here correctly.

68. *GKC* §152m.

69. See also Brockelmann, *GvG* 2:§§57–59.

70. Ronald J. Williams, *Hebrew Syntax: An Outline*, 2nd ed. (Toronto/Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1976), §§406–411, 569.

71. *Ibid.*, §70.

72. Cf. Segert, *Grammar*, §§75.462, 75.843.

73. See Joseph A. Fitzmyer, *The Aramaic Inscriptions of Sefire*, *Biblica et Orientalia*, vol. 19 (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1967), pp. 180–181.

74. Dion, *La langue*, p. 250.

75. See Ahirom I (Byblian), *Arsl.T*, 1:1/2 (standard Phoenician), Sf. I A I (Old Aramaic), and BH.

76. See already Andersen, *Or* 35 (1966): 88–89.

77. See p. 177.

78. *GKC* §112q.

79. Cf. *ibid.*, §§112p, ii.

80. See also n. 149 below.

81. Helga and Manfred Weippert, "Die 'Bileam'-Inscription von Tell Dêr 'Allâ,'" *ZDPV* 98 (1982): 88. Cf. Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," p. 63.

82. Weippert and Weippert, *ZDPV* 98 (1982): 99.

83. See *GKC* §112r.

84. See Joüon, *Grammaire*, §177e.

85. Lemaire, "L'ostracon 'Ramat-Negeb' et la topographie historique du Negeb," *Semitica* 23 (1973): 14, 15.

86. As read by Cross, in *Near Eastern Archaeology*, p. 301.

87. So, for example, William F. Albright and William L. Moran, "A Re-interpretation of an Amarna Letter from Byblos (EA 82)," *JCS* 2 (1948): 244 n. 7.

88. So, for example, *B-L* §36s.

89. Frank M. Cross and Richard J. Saley, "Phoenician Incantations on a Plaque of the Seventh Century B.C. from Arslan Tash in Upper Syria," *BASOR* 197 (1970): 46 n. 23a.

90. See Chapter 3, no. 24b.

91. So, for example, Caquot, Gaster, and Röllig.

92. Cross, *CBQ* 36 (1974): 488 n. 21.

93. Röllig, "Die Amulette von Arslan Taş," *NESE* 2 (1974): 26.

94. So Cross and Saley, *BASOR* 197 (1970): 47 with n. 39.

95. So *KAI* 2:47.

96. Dion, *La langue*, p. 273.

97. See Chapter 3, no. 22a.

98. Cf., however, p. 162 n. 354.

99. For the Moabite infinitive, see Segert, "Die Sprache der moabitischen Königsinschrift," *ArOr* 29 (1961): 224.

100. Aharoni, "Hebrew Ostraca from Tel Arad," *IEJ* 16 (1966): 2 n. 2; and *idem*, *Arad Inscriptions*, pp. 12, 18 (in Hebrew).

101. See the examples cited by Joüon, *Grammaire*, §123u.

102. Brockelmann, *GvG* 2:§10a.

103. So, for example, Hayim Tawil, "A Note on the Aḥiram Inscription," *JANES* 3/1 (1970–1971): 34 (earlier literature on p. 34 n. 13). The prefixed  $\mathfrak{a}$ , then, was the particle *\*kī*.



104. See Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §§323, 268.
105. See Rainer Degen, *Altaramäische Grammatik der Inschriften des 10.-8. Jh. v. Chr.*, Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes, vol. 38/3 (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1969), §§78, 93.
106. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 272–274, 318.
107. Cf. Andersen, *Or* 35 (1966): 106–108.
108. B. S. J. Isserlin, "Epigraphically attested Judean Hebrew, and the question of 'upper class' (Official) and 'popular' speech variants in Judea during the 8th–6th centuries B.C.," *AJBA* 2/1 (1972): 202–203.
109. Wolfram von Soden, *GAG* §150g.
110. Cyrus H. Gordon, *UT* §§9.26, 13.56.
111. Yet see below, no. 8.
112. Dion, *La langue*, p. 272.
113. Cf. Cross, *BASOR* 193 (1969): 18 with n. 8, although the form cited is probably a perfect (see Chapter 3, no. 23b).
114. The situation is more complex in BH, where the infinitive absolute did function as a finite verb, for which see John Huesman, "Finite Uses of the Infinitive Absolute," *Bibl* 37 (1956): 271–295, esp. pp. 284–295. The distinction between this use of the infinitive absolute and the consecutive imperfect remains to be studied.
115. Cross, "Epigraphic Notes on Hebrew Documents of the Eighth–Sixth Centuries B.C.: II. The Murabba'at Papyrus and the Letter Found Near Yabneh-Yam," *BASOR* 165 (1962): 44–45 n. 43; and *KAI* 2:200.
116. Shemaryahu Talmon ("The New Hebrew Letter from the Seventh Century B.C. in Historical Perspective," *BASOR* 176 [1964]: 30) and Albright ("Palestinian Inscriptions," in *ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 568 with n. 5), for example, understood נִסָּךְ as a noun and linked the waw to the preceding verb.
117. Gordon, *UT* §9.29.
118. Albright, "The Phoenician Inscriptions of the Tenth Century B.C. from Byblus," *JAOS* 67 (1947): 156 n. 24, followed by Roger T. O'Callaghan, "The Great Phoenician Portal Inscription from Karatepe," *Or* 18 (1949): 190; Cross and Freedman, *EHO*, p. 14; Segert, *Grammar*, §64.444; and Joshua Blau, "Hebrew and North West Semitic: Reflections on the Classification of the Semitic Languages," *Hebrew Annual Review* 2 (1978): 38.
119. So Harris, *Grammar*, p. 40; and idem, *Development*, p. 47. Cf. Kaufman, *Akkadian Influences*, p. 155 n. 75; and Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup>, p. 134 n. 1.
120. For additional examples, see Dupont-Sommer, *RA* 42 (1948): 182; and Weippert, "Elemente phönikischer und kilikischer Religion in den Inschriften vom Karatepe," in *XVII. Deutscher Orientalistentag . . . Würzburg. Vorträge*, ed. Wolfgang Voigt, ZDMG Supplementa, vol. 1, pt. 1 (Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner, 1969), p. 194 n. 9. Cf. Friedrich and Röllig, *PPG*<sup>2</sup> §267 with n. 1 (p. 135).
121. O'Callaghan, "The Phoenician Inscription on the King's Statue at Karatepe," *CBQ* 11 (1949): 239. Cf. David Marcus, "Studies in Ugaritic Grammar I," *JANES* 1/2 (1969): 59.

122. See above, p. 157 n. 221.
123. Degen, *Grammatik*, pp. 114–115 with n. 21 (with earlier literature); Kaufman, *Akkadian Influences*, p. 155; and idem, *BiOr* 34 (1977): 96.
124. Additional examples are listed by Degen, *Grammatik*, §74a. Cf. Fitzmyer, *Sefire*, p. 170.
125. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 259–260.
126. For the translation, see Rosenthal, *JBL* 95 (1976): 154.
127. So Dion, *La langue*, pp. 263–266.
128. See, for example, H 20ff.15ff.
129. So, for example, Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, p. 296; Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 63, 150; and McCarter, *BASOR* 239 (1980): 50.
130. See already Nöldeke, *Mesa*, pp. 31–32. Cf. Segert, *ArOr* 29 (1961): 223, 229.
131. Harris, *Development*, p. 47; and Albright, "A Reexamination of the Lachish Letters," *BASOR* 73 (1939): 21.
132. See *GKC* §112pp(a) with n. 2.
133. For other examples, see Brockelmann, *GvG* 2:§§77cβ, 78dα, 79cα.
134. This condition therefore excludes Ugaritic.
135. Ginsberg, "The Northwest Semitic Languages," in *Patriarchs*, ed. B. Mazar. The World History of the Jewish People, vol. 2 ([New Brunswick, N.J.]: Rutgers University Press, 1970), p. 105.
136. Segert, *Grammar*, §64.722.3. In Karatepe A I 15, עבר is nominal.
137. Jonas C. Greenfield, "The 'Periphrastic Imperative' in Aramaic and Hebrew," *IEJ* 19 (1969): 201.
138. Rosenthal, *BASOR* 158 (1960): 30 n. 12 (one possibility); and Fitzmyer, "A Further Note on the Aramaic Inscription Sefire III.22," *JSS* 14 (1969): 199–200.
139. Cf. Degen, *Grammatik*, §77.
140. James F. Ross, "Prophecy in Hamath, Israel, and Mari," *HTR* 63 (1970): 23 n. 80; and Albright, in *ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 568 (translation only). Cf. Dennis Pardee, "The Judicial Plea from Mešad Hashavyahu (Yavneh-Yam): A New Philological Study," *Maarav* 1 (1978): 40–41, 36.
141. Greenfield, *IEJ* 19 (1969): 209–210.
142. *Ibid.*, pp. 199–210.
143. Gordon, "Azitawadd's Phoenician Inscription," *JNES* 8 (1949): 114, 110.
144. Rosenthal, in *ANET*<sup>3</sup>, p. 654.
145. So Gordon, *JNES* 8 (1949): 114.
146. E. Lipiński, "From Karatepe to Pyrgi. Middle Phoenician Miscellanea," *RSF* 2 (1974): 48, though he translated the phrase differently.
147. See Wilfred Watson, "Shared Consonants in Northwest Semitic," *Bibl* 50 (1969): 525–533.
148. Cf. P. Swiggers, "Karatepe A II 5–6/B I 13–14/C III 3–4," *RSF* 9 (1981): 143–146.
149. Fitzmyer, *Sefire*, p. 66 (with list). The syntax of this construction, verb + complementary imperfect, is reminiscent of the Old Aramaic pur-

pose clause, in which a verb could be followed by an imperfect; see, for example, אָתָּה + imperfect in the meaning "he came in order to . . ." in Sf. III 11/12.12.12 (asyndetic) and Sf. III 11 (syndetic). Yet also note the complementary infinitive in Sf. I B 32.32.

150. KAI, Fitzmyer, etc.

151. Segert, *Grammatik*, §6.6.5.6.1.

152. Degen, *Grammatik*, p. 15, §§84.1, 88, followed by Kaufman, *BiOr* 34 (1977): 95, and idem, *Maarav* 3 (1982): 151 n. 36.

153. The handcopy in the *editio princeps* shows only traces of this letter. While Degen's reading may therefore be the correct one, at least syntactically, the faint traces seem to indicate a *mem*. Only a new reading of this passage would clarify this difficulty.

154. So, for example, McCarter, *BASOR* 239 (1980): 51, 52; and Carlton (Hackett), "Studies," pp. 40, 157.

155. See Brockelmann, *GvG* 2:§§337–341; and von Soden, *GAG* §150e.

156. Segert, *Grammar*, §76.24.

157. Word order in the second Arslan Tash text is not yet clear. Compare, for example, the translations of Gaster and Cross (in Cross, *CBQ* 36 [1974]: 486–487 [Gaster's], 488–489 [Cross']).

158. Cf. Yehimilk 2.

159. Kaufman, *Akkadian Influences*, p. 132. Cf. Greenfield, "The Dialects of Early Aramaic," *JNES* 37 (1978): 94, 95.

160. See already Dupont-Sommer, *Semitica* 1 (1948): 52 with n. 2.

161. Note that here, and throughout these dialects, there was no syntactic difference between declarative and volitive clauses.

162. See Kaufman, *Maarav* 3 (1982): 154.

163. Pierre Bordreuil, "Une tablette araméenne inédite de 635 av. J.-C.," *Semitica* 23 (1973): 95–102.

164. Kaufman, "An Assyro-Aramaic *egirtu ša šulmu*," in *Essays on the Ancient Near East in Memory of Jacob Joel Finkelstein*, ed. Maria deJong Ellis. Memoirs of the Connecticut Academy of Arts & Sciences, vol. 19 (Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1977), p. 120.

165. See idem, *Akkadian Influences*, p. 132.

166. Dion, *La langue*, p. 283; idem, "The Language Spoken in Ancient Sam'al," *JNES* 37 (1978): 118; and Segert, *Grammatik*, §7.3.3.4.1. See also Greenfield, "Dialect Traits in Early Aramaic," *Leshonenu* 32 (1968): 364 n. 29 (in Hebrew).

167. Siegfried Horn, "The Amman Citadel Inscription," *ADAJ* 12–13 (1967–1968): 83; idem, "The Ammān Citadel Inscription," *BASOR* 193 (1969): 8; and Puech and Rofé, *RB* 80 (1973): 532. Cf. Cross, *BASOR* 193 (1969): 18, 17; Albright, "Some Comments on the 'Ammān Citadel Inscription,'" *BASOR* 198 (1970): 38, 39; Kutscher, *Qadmoniot* 5 (1972): 27; Dion, "Notes d'épigraphie ammonite," *RB* 82 (1975): 32; and William J. Fulco, "The 'Ammān Citadel Inscription: A New Collation,'" *BASOR* 230 (1978): 42.

168. See the brief discussion by Hoftijzer, in *Aramaic Texts*, pp. 294–295.

# THE DIALECTAL CONTINUUM OF SYRIA-PALESTINE

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The table that follows summarizes the results obtained in Chapters 2–4. Each phoneme, phonetic feature, morpheme, and syntactic feature considered relevant to dialectal division is charted throughout the individual dialects. The table offers an overview of the Northwest Semitic dialects spoken in Syria-Palestine between 1000 and 586 B.C.E.

The dialects group, and regroup, according to the individual feature examined. For example, the correspondences of *\*d* (2:1)<sup>1</sup> separate Old Aramaic, Samalian, and Deir Alla from the Phoenician dialects, Ammonite, Moabite, and Hebrew. The form of the first person singular independent pronoun (3:1a) unites Phoenician dialects, Samalian, and Moabite into one group, and Old Aramaic and Hebrew into another. Yet a third feature, the form of the relative pronoun/particle (3:3), joins Old Byblian, Old Aramaic, and Samalian into one dialectal unit, standard Phoenician and Ammonite into another, and Moabite and Hebrew into a third. No two linguistic features have the identical distribution among these dialects.<sup>2</sup>

Not all linguistic features, however, are equally significant in linguistic classification.<sup>3</sup> Since the goal of any classificatory scheme is the demonstration of a particular shared relation among speech forms, only those features reflecting shared innovations are useful

|        | BYBLIAN<br>PHOENICIAN | STANDARD<br>PHOENICIAN | ARAMAIC                          | SAMALIAN | AMMONITE | DEIR ALLA | MOABITE | EDOMITE | HEBREW |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|
|        |                       | AND T                  | Zkr Sfr̥ Nerab Fek̆h. Halaf Adon |          |          |           |         |         | N S    |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:1)  |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:2)  |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:3)  |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:4)  |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:5)  |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:6)  |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:7)  |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:8)  |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:9)  |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:10) |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
|        |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |
| (2:11) |                       |                        |                                  |          |          |           |         |         |        |

|         | BYBLIAN                             | STANDARD<br>PHOENICIAN<br>And T | ABAMAIC     |             |             |             | SAMALIAN    | AMMONITE    | JEIT ALLA   | MOABITE     | EDONITE | HEBREW |   |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|--------|---|
|         |                                     |                                 | Zkr         | Sfire       | Nerab       | Fekhl.      | Halaf       | Adon        |             |             |         | N      | S |
| (2:12)  | Prothetic <i>ʾaleph</i>             | $\text{CV}^v > [\text{CV}]$     | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי |         |        |   |
| (2:13)  |                                     | yes                             | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי |         |        |   |
| (2:14)  | Aphaeresis <i>ʾaleph</i>            | no                              | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי |         |        |   |
| (2:15)  | Syncope intervocalic<br><i>yodh</i> | no                              | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי |         |        |   |
| (2:16)  | Syncope intervocalic<br><i>he</i>   | no                              | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי |         |        |   |
| (2:17)  | Palat. <i>he</i>                    | no                              | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי |         |        |   |
| (2:18a) | Corresp. final<br><i>ʾ-āf</i>       | no                              | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי |         |        |   |
| (2:18b) | <i>ʾ-af</i>                         | no                              | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי | אֵלֶּפְתָּי |         |        |   |

|  | BYBLIAN | STANDARD<br>PHOENICIAN<br>Ard T | ARAMAIC |       |       |       | SAMALIAN | AMMONITE | DEIR ALLA | MOABITE | EDOMITE | N | S | HEBREW |
|--|---------|---------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|---|---|--------|
|  |         |                                 | Zkr     | Sfure | Nerab | Fekh. | Halaf    | Adon     |           |         |         |   |   |        |
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|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 | }       |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |
|  |         |                                 |         |       |       |       |          |          |           |         |         |   |   |        |

|         | BYBLIAN                                 | STANDARD<br>PHOENICIAN<br>AND T | ARAMAIC |       |       | SAMALIAN | AMMONITE | DEIR ALLA | MOABITE | EDOMITE | HEBREW |
|---------|---|---------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|
|         |   |                                 | Zkr     | Sfere | Nerab | Fekh.    | Halaf    | Adon      |         |         |        |
| (3:6a)  | Noun:<br>abs. m. pl./dual               | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁                           |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | N S    |
| (3:6b)  | m. pl. const.                           | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                          |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | S      |
| (3:6c)  | abs. fm. sg.                            | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                          |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |
| (3:6d)  | abs. fm. pl.                            | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                    |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |
| (3:7)   | Pl. final wk. nouns                     | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                    |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |
| (3:8)   | Fm. pl. noun + suff.<br>like fm. sg.    | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                    |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |
| (3:9a)  | Poss. suff. on "sg."                    | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                    |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |
| (3:9b)  | 3rd m. sg.                              | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                    |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |
| (3:9c)  | 3rd fm. sg.                             | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                    |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |
| (3:9d)  | 1st pl.                                 | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                    |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |
| (3:9e)  | 3rd m. pl.                              | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                    |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |
| (3:10a) | Poss. suff. on pl.<br>nouns: 2nd m. sg. | 𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀𐤁𐤌𐤁𐤏𐤁𐤀                    |         |       |       |          |          |           |         |         | [ay]   |



|        | BYBLIAN   | STANDARD<br>PHOENICIAN<br>Aml T | ARAMAIC  |   |                                |           |       | SAMALIAN | AMMONITE  | EDOMITE                  | HEBREW                               |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|-----------|-------|----------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|        |   |                                 | Zkr  | Sfire   | Nerab                          | Fekh      | Halaf | Adon     |   |                          | N S                                  |
| (4.7b) | inf. in temp.<br>clause   | no?                             |  |   |                                | no        |       |          | no  | yes                      | yes                                  |
| (4.7c) | inf. as finite verb   |                                 |  |   |                                | no        |       |          | no  | no                       | no                                   |
| (4.8)  | Narrative, past<br>tense  |                                 |  |   |                                | perfect   |       |          | consec.<br>imperf.                                      | consec.<br>imperf.       | consec. impf.<br>> perfect           |
| (4.9)  | Participle;<br>periph. tense                                      |                                 |  |   |                                | no?       |       |          | no  | no                       | 1 example                            |
| (4.10) | "to be able" +<br>complem. vb.                                    | no                              | 1 example  |   |                                | imperfect |       |          | inf.?   |                          | inf.                                 |
| (4.11) | Verbal sentence;<br>position of finite<br>verb                    | initial (generally)             | initial (exc.:<br>ind. pro.<br>+ perfect)                | initial (exc.:<br>emphasis)                             | initial and<br>noninitial      | unmarked  |       |          | initial (exc.:<br>emph.)                                | initial (exc.:<br>emph.) | initial (exc.:<br>emphasis)          |
| (4.12) | Marking or<br>nonmarking of<br>definite, nominal<br>direct object | unmarked                        | usually<br>unmarked,<br>marked only<br>for<br>"emphasis" | usually un-<br>marked, marked<br>only for<br>"emphasis" | marked once with -a<br> <br>b? | unmarked  |       |          | ?<br>unmarked<br>or<br>marked<br>for<br>"em-<br>phasis" | usually<br>marked        | usually<br>marked with<br>waw (once) |
| (4.13) | Cond. Sentence;<br>marking or<br>nonmarking of<br>apodosis        | unmarked                        | marked with<br>waw (?)                                   | marked once with -a                                     | unmarked                       |           |       |          | unmarked  |                          | marked with<br>waw (once)            |

outcome, but the history of the outcome, is important in linguistic classification.<sup>17</sup>

Finally, a feature must not be borrowed but must represent a native linguistic development.<sup>18</sup> For example, if יָ "day" in southern Hebrew was borrowed from the northern dialect,<sup>19</sup> the absence of *waw* does not reflect any phonological feature of the southern dialect.<sup>20</sup> On the contrary, the absence of *waw* reflects the phonological pattern of the donor dialect. Since borrowings do not necessarily participate in the changes of the recipient dialect,<sup>21</sup> they must be excluded from a classificatory scheme.

Linguistic classification, or subgrouping, must begin with shared innovations. "A shared innovation is one which cannot be due to chance (i.e. to independent linguistic change) or to separate borrowing."<sup>22</sup> Only those features which reflect shared development provide the basis for a classificatory scheme.

Yet a single shared innovation in itself is insufficient, since the innovation may be coincidental.<sup>23</sup> In order to obviate this objection, it is customary to isolate sets of shared innovations;<sup>24</sup> the greater the number of innovations shared by certain speech forms, the smaller the likelihood of independent duplication. And the greater the number of shared innovations, the greater the likelihood of common linguistic development.

« » « »

A preliminary evaluation of features examined in Chapters 2–4 suggests that classes of features are of different value in classifying the NWS dialects. Syntax, for example, is an unreliable tool. A syntactic feature may reflect a well-attested innovation and not demonstrate any particular shared history, as in the use of the perfect as the narrative, past tense (4:8), the appearance of a periphrastic tense (4:9), and the marking of apodoses (4:13). Analogical formations and extensions were also frequent, as for example the agreement between a noun and demonstrative pronoun (4:2) and probably the use of the *nota accusativi* to introduce nominal direct objects (4:12);<sup>25</sup> as in phonology and morphology, analogical formations and extensions in syntax do not reflect a shared linguistic development in the history of particular speech forms. Finally, syntactic retentions—the use of the infinitive to form temporal clauses (4:7b), the consecutive imperfect as the narrative tense (4:8), verb-initial syntax

« » « »

Within these parameters, the distinctive innovations of each dialect can be categorized as follows:

### OLD BYBLIAN

#### *Analogical formations*

The absolute masc. plural/dual nominal ending  $\text{m-}$  (3:6a)

#### *Independent developments*

The assimilation of *nun* to all following nonlaryngeal consonants (2:9), and its extension to *\*bin* 'son' + PN (2:9)

The correspondence *\*at:[ā]* in the later form שמע 'she heard' (2:18b; 3:17c)

#### *Shared innovations*

The merger of *\*d* and *\*ṣ* (2:1), *\*d* and *\*z* (2:2), *\*t* and *\*ṣ* (2:3), and *\*t* and *\*š* (2:4).

The monophthongization of all diphthongs (2:8)

The syncope of intervocalic *he* in the third person masc. sing. suffix (2:16; 3:9b)

The definite article *he* (3:5)

The masc. plural construct ending *\*ay* (3:6b)

The third person masc. sing. suffix on masc. plural nouns [aw (?)] (3:10b) (attested only later)

The conditional particle  $\text{kl}$  (3:15b)

The ending of initial weak *qal* inf. constructs in  $\text{-n-}$  (3:21b)

Only these latter features facilitate the classification of Old Byblian.

In the later phase of this dialect, certain phonological and morphological features had changed. For example, the *nun* in *\*bin* 'son' no longer assimilated to the initial consonant of the following PN, the masculine sing. demonstrative pronoun  $\text{ʔ}$  (3:2a) was replaced by  $\text{r}$ , and the relative pronoun  $\text{-t}$  (3:3) was replaced by  $\text{wʔ}$ . Each of these changes in the later phase of Byblian was traceable to the influence of standard Phoenician.<sup>29</sup>

## STANDARD PHOENICIAN

*Analogical formations*

The absolute masc. plural/dual nominal ending 𐤁- (3:6a)

The first person sing. perfect ending [tī] (3:17a)

*Independent developments*

The assimilation of *nun* to the following consonant within a word (2:9)

Incipient anaptyxis (2:11)

The complete absorption of syllable-closing *aleph* to the preceding vowel (2:13)

The correspondence \*at:[ā] in third person fem. sing. perfect verbs (2:18b; 3:17c)

The form of the *nota accusativi* (3:15a)

The merger of indicative and jussive verbal forms (3:18a, 18b)

The merger of the middle weak *D*-stem and the *pōlel* (3:22b) (?)

*Shared innovations*

The merger of \*ḏ and \*š (2:1), \*ḏ and \*z (2:2), \*ṭ and \*š (2:3), and \*ṭ and \*š (2:4)

The change of \*ā to [ō] (2:5), and its extension to all nonverbal accented *a*-vowels (2:6–7)

The monophthongization of all diphthongs (2:8)

The usual syncope of intervocalic *yodh* (2:15)

The syncope of intervocalic *he* (even after the conjunction \*wa) (2:16), except after *i*-vowels (2:17, etc.)

The masc. sing. demonstrative pronoun 𐤅 “this” (3:2a) (?)

The relative particle 𐤇𐤍 (3:3)

The personal, interrogative pronoun 𐤍 (3:4)

The definite article *he* (3:5)

The masc. plural construct ending \*ay (3:6b)

A special plural formation of final weak nouns (3:7)

The vocalization of the strong *qal* inf. construct [liqṭōl] (3:19a)

The ending of initial and final weak inf. constructs in 𐤌- (3:21b, 23f)

The replacement of \*bāniy- by \*bānay- in the masc. plural participle (3:23g)

The imperfect form [yiqqah] (3:25a)

The ending of the *qal* inf. of 𐤍𐤔 “to take” in 𐤌- (3:25b)

While it appears that most Phoenician-speaking communities participated in these innovations, Arslan Tash<sup>30</sup> deviated from this pattern in two respects. The absolute masc. plural/dual nominal ending was ַ-, and the first person sing. perfect morpheme may have been [t(u/i)]. These two features were, in all probability, borrowed from Old Aramaic which was spoken in this community at that time.<sup>31</sup>

## OLD ARAMAIC

### *Analogical formations*

The term for nonexistence ܐܠܝܢ (3:14) (?)

The tG stem (3:16a)

The treatment of the middle weak radical as a strong root letter in certain verbal forms (3:22a, 22b)

### *Independent developments*

The assimilation of *nun* to the following consonant within a word (2:9)

The correspondence \*ât:[â] (2:18a; 3:6c)

The loss of final short vowels (2:19; see also 3:9a)

The form of the *nota accusativi* (3:15a)

The position of the term for nonexistence in the sentence (4:4c)

### *Shared innovations*

The correspondence \*d:ḏ (2:1)

The dissimilation of emphatics: \*q + emphatic > k + emphatic (2:10)

The aphaeresis of *aleph* in חר "one" (2:14)

The first person sing. independent pronoun אנה (3:1a)

The definite article ܐ- (3:5)

The masc. plural construct ending \*ay (3:6b)

A special plural formation of final weak nouns (3:7)

The third person masc. sing. suffix on plural nouns [awh(i)] (3:10b)

The loss of the *niphal* (3:16b)

The *paal* and *haphel* inf. construct of strong verbs ending in ܢ- (3:19b)

The *peal* passive participle \*qatīl (3:20)

- The loss of the initial radical and the doubling of the second in imperfect and certain nominal forms of ישב\* "to sit, dwell" and ידע\* "to know" (3:21a)
- The form of the indicative and jussive sing. of final weak verbs in ה- and י-, respectively (3:23d)
- The replacement of \*bāniy- by \*bānay- in the masc. plural (undetermined) participle (3:23g)
- The *paēl* and *haphēl* of final weak roots, third person masc. sing., in [banni] and [habnī], respectively (3:23h) (?)<sup>32</sup>
- The imperfect form [yiqqaḥ] (3:25a)

While most Aramaic-speaking communities exhibited these innovations, there were certain speech variants in each community.<sup>33</sup>

ALEPPO: In three passages of the Zkr Text, the consecutive imperfect functioned as the historical past tense (4:8). Since this usage was a common NWS trait,<sup>34</sup> this feature was a retention here. It does not suggest any dialectal affinities.<sup>35</sup>

SFIRE:<sup>36</sup> Several dialectal variations resulted from analogy or extension—the plural demonstrative pronoun אֵלָן (3:2c), the absolute fem. plural nominal ending י- (3:6d), perhaps the imperfect form [yilqaḥ] (3:25a), and the use of -פ- to mark the apodosis of conditions (4:13). Incipient anaptyxis (2:11), the prothetic *aleph* in אשם "name" (2:12), and the possible loss of medial *aleph* in בירא "well (?)" (2:13) are well-attested, Semitic phonetic developments. There is also one possible example of an infinitive complement to כהל "to be able" (4:10), and final weak nominal plurals were formed like strong plurals (3:7). The combination of these features distinguished Sfire-Aramaic from the other Old Aramaic dialects.<sup>37</sup>

NERAB: Like other Old Aramaic dialects, initial \*q + emphatic dissimilated to k + emphatic (2:10), and the third person masc. sing. suffix on plural nouns was [awh(i)] (3:10b).<sup>38</sup> The position of the verb in the sentence, however, was flexible (4:11).<sup>39</sup>

FEKHERIYEH:<sup>40</sup> In addition to the innovations characteristic of Old Aramaic, this dialect exhibited several others—the third person plural possessive suffixes ם-/י- (2:16; 3:9d) and the *peal* inf. construct \*miqtal (3:19a). The flexibility in the placement of the verb in the sentence (4:11) might be another Fekh. innovation shared with other NWS dialects, unless it developed independently. Fekh.-Aramaic did not, however, participate in every Old Aramaic innovation. For example, the *t*-stem of the G was Gt in Fekh. (3:16a), not the an-

alogical tG. Further, the *paēl* and *haphēl* inf. constructs ended in -θ (3:19b), not π-. Both of these features were retentions in Fekh. Finally, other dialectal features at Fekh. were the precative *lamedh* (3:15d), the merger of the middle weak *D*-stem and the *pālel* (3:22b), the fem. sing. demonstrative pronoun ππ (3:2b), the imperfect formation [yilqah] (3:25a), and the genitive particle π (4:3a). These features were independent developments, analogical formations, or retentions.

HALAF: This dialect had a new form of the third person masc. sing. suffix on plural nouns [ayh(i)] (3:10b). This dialect also had a genitive particle π (4:3a) and a great flexibility in the placement of the verb in the sentence (4:11). The suffixed form [ayh(i)] and flexibility in verb placement are features characteristic of later eastern Aramaic.

ADON LETTER (southern Palestine):<sup>41</sup> Like Fekh.-Aramaic, this dialect had a *\*miqtal peal* inf. construct (3:19a), the genitive particle π (4:3a), and flexibility in the placement of the verb in main clauses (4:11).

## SAMALIAN

### *Analogical formations*

The cardinal decade ending in π (3:12) (?)

### *Independent developments*

The assimilation of *nun* to the following consonant within a word (2:9)

The use of the prothetic *aleph* (2:12)

The possible absorption of *aleph* to the preceding vowel (2:13)

The correspondence *\*āt:[ā]* (2:18a; 3:6c)

The loss of final short vowels (2:19; see also 3:9a)

The form of the *nota accusativi* (3:15a)

The merger of indicative and jussive verbal forms (3:18a, 18b, 23d)

### *Shared innovations*

The correspondence *\*d:π* (2:1)

The monophthongization of final diphthongs (2:8)

The possible dissimilation of emphatics in πππ "truth" (2:10)

- The aphaeresis of *aleph* in חר "one" (2:14) (unless borrowed)
- The syncope of intervocalic *yodh* (except in ביד "in the hand [of]") (2:15)
- The syncope of causative *he* in the imperfect (2:16)
- The *peal* passive participle \**qatīl* (3:20)
- The loss of the initial radical and the doubling of the second in imperfect and certain nominal forms of ישב\* "to sit, dwell" and ידע\* "to know" (3:21a)
- The ending of indicative and jussive final weak verbs, sing. persons in י- (3:23d)
- The *paal* and *haphel* of final weak verbs, third person masc. sing., in [banni] and [habni], respectively (3:23h) (?)<sup>42</sup>
- The imperfect form [yiqqaḥ] (3:25a)

## AMMONITE

### *Analogical formations*

- The absolute masc. plural/dual nominal ending ם- (3:6a)

### *Independent developments*

- The assimilation of *nun* to any following consonant (2:9)
- The use of the prothetic *aleph* before consonant clusters with initial sibilants (2:12)

### *Shared innovations*

- The merger of \**q* and \**ṣ* (2:1)
- The merger of \**ā* and [ō] (2:5), and its extention to \**ā*:[ō] (2:6)
- The monophthongization of \**ay* (2:8)
- The loss of intervocalic *yodh* (including the PN בראל) (2:15)
- The relative particle אש (3:3)
- The personal, interrogative pronoun [mī] (3:4)
- The definite article *he* (3:5)

## DEIR ALLA

### *Analogical formations*

- The tG stem (?) (3:16a)
- The third person fem. plural imperfect י-ת (3:18c)



*Independent developments*

- The assimilation of *nun* to the following consonant within a word (2:9)
- The possible use of the prothetic *aleph* (2:12)
- The correspondence \**at*:[á] (2:18a; 3:6c), and \**at*:[ā] in שמחה (2:18b)
- The loss of final short vowels (2:19; see also 3:9a)
- The merger of indicative and jussive verbal forms in the second/third persons plural (3:18a, 18b)

*Shared innovations*

- The correspondence \**d*:q̣ (2:1)
- The aphaeresis of *aleph* in חד "one" (2:14) (unless borrowed)
- The syncope of causative *he* in the imperfect (2:16)
- The masc. plural construct ending \**ay* (3:6b)
- The third person masc. sing. suffix on plural nouns [awh(u/i)] (3:10b)
- The ending of initial weak inf. constructs in ת- (3:21b)
- The form of the indicative and jussive sing. of final weak verbs in ת- and י-, respectively (3:23d)
- The imperative of הלך\* "to go" formed from the root הלך\* (3:24b)
- The imperfect form [yiqqaḥ] (3:25a)
- The possible flexibility in the placement of the verb in main clauses (4:11) (unless an independent development)

## MOABITE

*Analogical formations*

- The first person sing. perfect ending [tī] (3:17a)
- The imperfect form אהלך (ו) (3:24a) (?)

*Independent developments*

- The assimilation of *nun* to any following consonant (2:9)
- The use of the prothetic *aleph* before sibilants (2:12)
- The absorption of syllable-closing *aleph* into the preceding vowel (2:13)
- The loss of final short vowels (2:19; see also 3:9a)
- The fem. sing. demonstrative pronoun זאת "this" (3:2b) (unless inherited)

The position of the term for nonexistence in the sentence (4:4c)

*Shared innovations*

The merger of \**d* and \**ṣ* (2:1)

The possible tonic lengthening of short vowels (2:7)

The gradual monophthongization of diphthongs (2:8)

The syncope of causative *he* in the imperfect (2:16)

The relative particle אשר (3:3)

The definite article *he* (3:5)

The masc. plural construct ending \**ay* (3:6b)

The third person masc. sing. suffix on plural nouns [ôh(u/i) (?)]  
(3:10b)

The form of the *nota accusativi* את < אית\* (3:15a)

The possible loss of the *niphal* (3:16b)

The ending of initial weak inf. constructs in ת- (3:21b)

The apocopation of the final syllable in certain forms of final  
weak consecutive imperfects (3:23d)

The imperative of יהלך\* "to go" formed from the root ילך\* (3:24b)

The imperfect form [yiqqah] (3:25a)

## EDOMITE

*Independent developments*

The assimilation of *nun* to any following consonant (2:9)

*Shared innovations*

The monophthongization of diphthongs (in later texts) (2:8)

The syncope of *yodh* in בר "through" < \**ba/i-yad* (2:15)

The definite article *he* (3:5)

## HEBREW

*Analogical formations*

The first person sing. independent pronoun אני (3:1a)

The absolute masc. plural/dual nominal ending ם- (3:6a)

The connecting vowel \**ay* on feminine plural suffixed nouns (3:8)

The first person plural possessive suffix ו- (3:9c) (?)

The first person sing. perfect ending [ti] (3:17a)

The third person fem. plural imperfect ת-נ- (3:18c)

*Independent developments*

The assimilation of *nun* to the following consonant (except in ת"ב verbs [BH]) (2:9)

The absorption of syllable-closing *aleph* into the preceding vowel (2:13)

The correspondence \**at*:[ā] (2:18a; 3:6c) and \**at*:[ā] (2:18b; 3:1d)

The loss of final short vowels (2:19; see also 3:9a)

The fem. sing. demonstrative pronoun זאת "this" (3:2b) (unless inherited)

The merger of indicative and jussive verbal forms in the second/third persons plural (3:18a, 18b)

The merger of the middle weak *D*-stem and the *pōlel* (3:22b) (?)

*Shared innovations*

The merger of \**d* and \**ṣ* (2:1), \**d* and \**z* (2:2), \**t* and \**ṣ* (2:3), and \**t* and \**ṣ* (2:4)

The correspondence \**ā*:[ō] (2:5), and \**ā*:[ō] (in doubly closed syllables) (2:6)

The tonic lengthening of nonverbal short vowels (2:7)

The syncope of intervocalic *he* in third person suffixes (under certain conditions) and in the causative imperfect (2:16)

The masc. sing. demonstrative pronoun זה "this" (3:2a) (?)

The relative particle אשר (3:3)

The personal, interrogative pronoun מי (3:4)

The definite article *he* (3:5)

The masc. plural construct ending \**ay* (3:6b)

The third person masc. sing. suffix on plural nouns [āw] (3:10b)

The form of the *nota accusativi* את < אית\* (3:15a)

The vocalization of the strong *qal* inf. construct [liqtōl] (3:19a)

The imperfect of ישב "to sit, dwell" and ידע "to know" as [yēšeb], etc. (3:21a)

The ending of initial (including לקח "to take") and final weak inf. constructs in ת- (3:21b, 23f, 25b)

The replacement of \**banay*- by \**baniy*- in the first person sing. *qal* perfect (3:23a)

The use of a monosyllabic base \**bān*- in forming certain final weak verbal forms (3:23c, 23e [?], 23g)

and the doubling of the second in imperfect and certain nominal forms of ישב\* "to sit, dwell" and ידע\* "to know" (3:21a), etc.—occurred, in varying degree, in Old Aramaic, Samalian, Deir Alla, and Moabite. Only the Old Aramaic dialects, however, bore the entirety of these innovations. Thus, standard Phoenician and Old Aramaic (as a dialect group) constituted the two major linguistic centers of Syro-Palestinian NWS. In terms of a dialect continuum, standard Phoenician and Old Aramaic were the linguistic extremes.

For those dialects lying between these two poles, standard Phoenician and Old Aramaic were competing forces. They are as follows:

**AMMONITE:** In addition to the features common to all Canaanite dialects—such as the correspondences  $*d:[\dot{\zeta}]$ ,  $*d:[z]$ , the definite article *he*, etc.—the correspondence  $*\acute{a}:[\acute{o}]$  (2:6) and the relative particle אש (3:3) strongly align Ammonite with standard Phoenician.<sup>47</sup> In terms of the available data, these two features were innovations shared exclusively between standard Phoenician and Ammonite.<sup>48</sup>

**EDOMITE:** The form of the preposition בר "through" < *\*hali-yad* (2:15) allies this dialect with Ammonite (in the PN בראל) and standard Phoenician. Further, if the correspondence  $*\acute{a}:[\acute{a}]$  (2:7) is confirmed in Edomite, this feature forms a bond with Hebrew; in standard Phoenician,  $*\acute{a}:[\acute{o}]$ .

**HEBREW:** The standard Phoenician affiliation of Hebrew is seen in the correspondences  $*\acute{a}:[\acute{o}]$  (2:5),  $*\acute{a}^2:[\acute{o}]$  (in doubly closed syllables) (2:6), the preservation of  $*\acute{a}$  in verbs (2:7), the almost complete syncope of intervocalic *he* (2:16), the inf. construct of initial (including לקח "to take") and final weak verbs ending in ת- (3:21b, 23f, 25b), etc.

Several innovations, however, appear to have been native to this dialect. For example, the relative particle אשר (3:3), the *nota accusativi* את (cf. אית in standard Phoenician and Old Aramaic) (3:15a), and the apocopation of the final syllable in certain forms of final weak jussives and consecutive imperfects (3:23d) were innovations absent from standard Phoenician.

**MOABITE:** Although most of its phonological and morphological innovations were shared with Phoenician, Moabite possessed several Hebraic innovations: the possible tonic lengthening of short vowels (2:7), the relative particle אשר (3:3), the *nota accusativi* את (3:15a), and the apocopation of the final syllable in certain forms of final weak consecutive imperfects (3:23d). Moabite also shared the

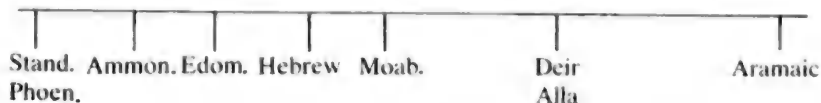
form of the third person masc. sing. suffix on plural nouns, [ôh(u/i)] (3:10b), with Old Aramaic. Further, an interesting feature connecting Moabite with northern dialects is the form of "year"—שֶׁת < \*šan-t (3:6c), in which the fem. ending -t was added to the \*CaC base; it is uncertain, however, whether this form was an innovation.<sup>49</sup>

DEIR ALLA: The Deir Alla dialect reflects the basic phonological innovations of Old Aramaic: the correspondence \*d:q̣ (2:1) and the aphaeresis of *aleph* in חר "one" (2:14) (unless borrowed). Further, the form of the third person masc. sing. suffix on plural nouns [awh(u/i)] (3:10b) is a morphological innovation aligning Deir Alla with Old Aramaic. Yet the syncope of causative *he* in imperfects (2:16), the ending of initial weak inf. constructs in ת- (3:21b), and the imperative of הֵלֵךְ\* "to go" formed from וִלֵךְ\* (3:24b) were innovations native to Hebrew and standard Phoenician. Since no changes peculiar to standard Phoenician or Hebrew can be recognized in Deir Alla, the source of these innovations cannot be pinpointed.<sup>50</sup>

« » « »

At one linguistic extreme of the dialect chain is standard Phoenician, and at the other end is Old Aramaic. Of the dialects known, Ammonite was most closely related to standard Phoenician. Edomite was related to Phoenician as well as to Hebrew. On this dialectal continuum, Hebrew lies closer to standard Phoenician than it does to Old Aramaic. Moabite was most closely related to Hebrew; it also possessed distinctive Aramaic features. The Deir Alla dialect shared some features with Hebrew (and Canaanite), but most of its phonological and morphological inventory was derived from Old Aramaic. Finally, Old Aramaic lies at the end of the continuum.

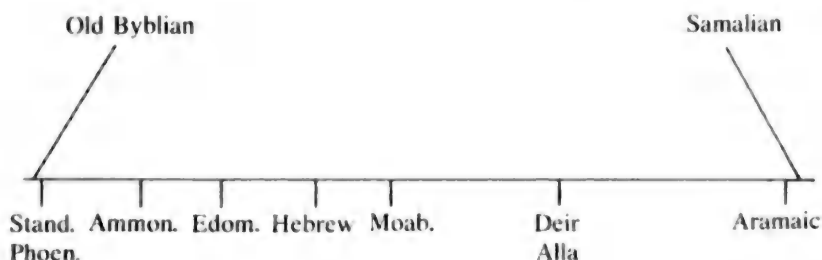
In graphic form, this dialect continuum appears as:



The position of Hebrew, however, in terms of this continuum, is unclear because it did not exhibit any diagnostic Aramaic traits. Rather, its unique characteristics suggest that Hebrew was a minor

mark definite, nominal direct objects (4:12) were retentions. They also appeared in, for example, Ugaritic.<sup>54</sup> Yet, unlike Ugaritic, Samalian was an eighth-century dialect. Samalian participated in many, but not all of the changes in Old Aramaic.<sup>55</sup> Samalian, then, developed from the same lineage as Old Aramaic, but its development was arrested at an early date. In terms of contemporary, eighth-century dialects, Samalian was therefore archaic.

In terms of the dialectal continuum of Syria-Palestine, a more accurate presentation of the linguistic situation is:



The dialect chain runs from standard Phoenician, through Hebrew and Moabite, to Old Aramaic. Old Byblian constitutes a dialect island on the Phoenician side, and Samalian forms another on the Aramaic extremity.

The preserved literature of this period supplements this view of NWS dialectal relations. II Kgs. 18:26 = Is. 36:11 relates that Hebrew and Old Aramaic, ca. 700 B.C.E., were not mutually intelligible. Further, according to Jer. 27:3, three-quarters of a century later, Jeremiah's speech was assumed to be understood by people knowing standard Phoenician, Ammonite, Edomite, and Moabite.<sup>56</sup> The Bible therefore indicates that dialects on the left side of this continuum—standard Phoenician through Moabite—were mutually intelligible.<sup>57</sup> Hebrew and Old Aramaic were not.<sup>58</sup> It would follow, then, that an Aramaic speaker did not understand any other Canaanite dialect lying to the left of Hebrew on the continuum either. Yet it is suggested that those dialects toward the center of the continuum, perhaps even Moabite and the Deir Alla dialect themselves, were, in fact, mutually intelligible. In other words, the farther away two dialects lay on the continuum, the smaller the chance of mutual intelligibility; the closer the proximity on the continuum, the higher the probability of mutual intelligibility.<sup>59</sup>

« » « »

Nonlinguistic evidence further supports this view of the NWS dialectal continuum. For example, the overall character of a speech form can be correlated with its physical position on a map. The Samalian dialect, to take one case, was spoken in far north Syria. Samal was located in very rough terrain, and the Amanus mountains further blocked communication with neighboring communities.<sup>60</sup> The seclusion of this state, then, from principal Aramaic-speaking communities contributed to its arrested linguistic development.<sup>61</sup>

The inventory of linguistic features in Ammonite, also, was affected by its geographical position on the Transjordanian periphery. Ammonite, on the one hand, was a Phoenician-related dialect. On the other hand, it did not participate in all Phoenician innovations. The recognizable retentions—the preservation of *\*aw* (2:8), the retention of initial and medial *aleph* (2:13, 14), the imperfect plural ending [ūn] (3:18b)—are probably attributable to its physical distance from Phoenicia; this Transjordanian dialect received some, but not all, innovations from the Phoenician center.<sup>62</sup> Interestingly, however, Ammonite showed no innovations shared exclusively with Old Aramaic.

In a similar fashion, the progressive monophthongization in Moabite can be understood by the gradual diffusion of this innovation from the source dialect; it took time to reach, and cover, all Moab. It took even more time for this innovation to reach Edom, for *\*aw* did not contract until a very late period. Monophthongization in Ammonite affected only *\*ay*. Finally, all diphthongs were preserved in Deir Alla. In Transjordan, then, monophthongization affected the dialects in different degrees; geographical removal from the innovating dialect was, at least in part, responsible for the different outcomes.

The location of southern Hebrew in southernmost Syria-Palestine promoted its rather unique character. Its several retentions—for example, the preservation of *\*ā* < *\*awa*/*\*aya* and *\*aʾ* (2:6), the preservation of diphthongs (2:8), the directive *he* (3:15c), the use of the consecutive imperfect as the narrative tense (4:8), etc.—to some extent resulted from its geographical distance from the two principal linguistic centers. Further, the diffusion of several Hebraic innovations to neighboring Moabite, despite the barrier afforded by the Dead Sea, was facilitated, at least in part, by geographical proximity.

The development of southern Hebrew, and its relation to Moabite, then, were related to physical geography.

Physical geography also explains the recognizable deviations in northern Hebrew from the pattern of the southern dialect. Whereas southern Hebrew resisted monophthongization, the northern dialect followed the pattern of standard Phoenician, its neighbor. Also, the form of "year," שָׁנָה, joins northern Hebrew and standard Phoenician (see also Moabite שָׁנָה), in contrast to שָׁנָה\* (BH). These features, then, spread into the neighboring Israelite state but stopped at the Judean border.<sup>63</sup>

Additionally, the presence of certain linguistic features in northern Hebrew can be inferred on the basis of its geographic position. Since this dialect lay physically between standard Phoenician (innovator) and Ammonite (recipient), the presence of innovations in the flanking regions would suggest their presence in the intermediate region as well.<sup>64</sup> For example, that both standard Phoenician and Ammonite shared the relative particle שָׁכָן (3:3) suggests that northern Hebrew also had a relative שָׁכָן.<sup>65</sup> Further, standard Phoenician and Ammonite exhibited the correspondence \*á:[ǎ] (2:6) in contrast, for example, to BH \*á:[ǎ] (except \*á < \*á' in doubly closed syllables). Perhaps northern Hebrew deviated from the BH pattern and followed that of its lateral dialects; northern Hebrew, then, would have had the correspondence \*á:[ǎ] as well.<sup>66</sup> This dialect, then, might have shared several features with standard Phoenician-Ammonite which did not reach southern Hebrew or which are not preserved in BH.<sup>67</sup>

The relative isolation of the Aramean states in the North likewise had its effect upon the linguistic development of Aramaic. Its numerous phonological, morphological, and syntactic retentions—for example, the preservation of \*d (2:2), \*t (2:3), \*t (2:4), all *a*-vowels (2:5–7), diphthongs (2:8), all initial and medial *alephs* (except in חָד "one") (2:13–14), the preservation of intervocalic *he* (2:16), the personal, interrogative pronoun מָה (3:4), the coordinating conjunction -וּ (3:13), the distinction between indicative and jussive verbal forms (3:18a, 18b, 23d, 23e), the nonmarking of apodoses (4:13), etc.—may be explained by its geographical location; only in the far South was Aram bordered by NWS-speaking peoples. As was the case with Samalian, isolation facilitated these numerous retentions.<sup>68</sup>

In all these cases, however, physical geography was only indirectly responsible for the diffusion or arresting of linguistic change.



The degree to which physical geography affected human communication is the central issue, not simply the presence or absence of physical obstacles. A natural barrier may have corresponded to a language boundary only if it prevented communication.<sup>69</sup>

Just as physical geography sometimes affected linguistic relations among these NWS dialects, so too historical, political, and economic factors influenced their internal composition and interrelation. The degree of political unification, for example, may have affected the dialectal makeup of an area.<sup>70</sup> The contrast between the speech of the Aramean states and of Judah is especially telling in this respect. The Aramean states had a number of local dialects; in fact, according to the present evidence, no two Syrian Aramaic-speaking communities spoke the identical dialect in this period.<sup>71</sup> Geographically proximate dialects could be similar, as for example Aleppo- and Sfire-Aramaic. Or two neighboring Old Aramaic dialects could differ, as for example the dialects of Nerab and Aleppo. This heterogeneity may be traced, in some measure, to the lack of political unification among the Aramean states. Each state was largely independent, and the states joined forces for specific military needs. Afterward the union would dissolve. Throughout the early first millennium B.C.E., no single governmental system united all the Aramean states under one rubric.

The linguistic situation in Judah was very different. According to the present evidence, Judah was a single linguistic entity. The texts from Jerusalem, Arad, Yavneh-Yam, and Lachish (somewhat later) showed identical phonology,<sup>72</sup> morphology, and syntax. This linguistic unity may be accounted for, in some degree, by the political and religious centralization of the southern kingdom, beginning in David's time. Jerusalem was the cultural and political center, and it was this centralization which may have had its influence on linguistic development as well. In view of the overall sociopolitical structure of Syria-Palestine, however, this situation was very much atypical.

This unification of the South created a barrier between it and non-Judean communities. There were no major physical boundaries between North and South; rather, the religious/cultural differences which arose, already in the early first millennium, created a strong barrier between peoples. Linguistic differences therefore ensued.

Historical and political factors were also responsible, in part at least, for the linguistic similarity between southern Hebrew and

Moabite. By Saul's time, Moab had been captured by Israel (I Sam. 14:47–48). David left his parents in the care of the Moabite king (I Sam. 22:3–4); later, he too subjugated Moab, and all Transjordan, making it a vassal state (II Sam. 8:2). And by the time of Solomon, Israel and Moab were on friendly terms; Solomon even married Moabite women (I Kgs. 11:1). Israel, then, had won sway over Moab by this time, and the effect of this dominion may be seen in the linguistic similarity between Moabite and southern Hebrew.

Whereas polity and sociocultural factors influenced the NWS dialects at this time, economic factors were also important. For example, economic strength probably accounts for much of Phoenicia's linguistic control over southern Syria-Palestine. Since the inland communities were largely dependent upon the materials and goods arriving in the Phoenician ports, those ports became important economic and sociocultural centers. Linguistic changes could spread throughout the area via intricate trade routes crossing Palestine and Transjordan. In this way, such formidable geographical barriers as Mount Lebanon were largely overcome. And even after the decline of Phoenician inland trade, its linguistic hold over the area was already secure.<sup>73</sup>

Thus a number of factors influenced the linguistic complexion of first-millennium Syria-Palestine. Geographical proximity, or distance, from linguistic centers affected the degree to which changes were received. Political, economic, cultural-religious, and military factors likewise affected the dialectal makeup of the area. As in any area, the linguistic picture of Syria-Palestine resulted from an intricate series of linguistic, geographical, and historical factors.

### Notes to Chapter 5

1. The numbers in parentheses indicate the chapter and section number where the feature was discussed.

2. Leonard Bloomfield, *Language* (New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1933), p. 328.

3. Cf. p. 3.

4. The classic formulation is that of Karl Brugmann, "Zur Frage nach den Verwandtschaftsverhältnissen der indogermanischen Sprachen," *Internationale Zeitschrift für allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft* 1 (1884): 226–256, esp. pp. 252, 253. See also C. Douglas Chrétien, "Shared Innovations and Subgrouping," *IJAL* 29 (1963): 66–68.

5. Joseph H. Greenberg, *Essays in Linguistics* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1957), p. 49.

6. For example, Sabatino Moscati, "Il semitico di nord-ovest," in *Studi orientalistici in onore di Giorgio Levi Della Vida*, Pubblicazioni dell'Istituto per l'Oriente, no. 52, 2 vols. (Rome: Istituto per l'Oriente, 1956), 2:215. Cf. Paul-E. Dion, *La langue de Ya'udi* (Waterloo, Ont.: The Corporation for the Publication of Academic Studies in Religion in Canada, 1974), p. 325. See also Chapter 3, no. 2a with n. 29.

7. Dion, *La langue*, pp. 137–138 (earlier literature on pp. 437–438 n. 33). See also Chapter 3, no. 5, with n. 93.

8. See Chapter 3, no. 16b, with n. 288. Cf. Jo Ann Carlton (Hackett), "Studies in the Plaster Text from Tell Deir 'Allā" (Ph.D. dissertation, Harvard University, 1980), p. 188; and idem, "The Dialect of the Plaster Text from Tell Deir 'Allā," *Or* 53 (1984): 62, 65.

9. Greenberg, *Essays*, p. 51; and Theodora Bynon, *Historical Linguistics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977), p. 34.

10. See Chapter 3, no. 17a, and p. 31.

11. See Chapter 3, no. 18c, with n. 328.

12. On the phenomenon, see Antoine Meillet, *Linguistique historique et linguistique générale*, Nouveau tirage, 2 vols. (Paris: Édouard Champion, 1948–1951), 1:36–43; and more generally, Edward Sapir, *Language* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1921), pp. 157–182.

13. Carl Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§46a.

14. See pp. 26–27. Cf. *B-L* §2k'.

15. See Chapter 2, no. 9 with n. 165.

16. See Chapter 3, no. 15a.

17. See Robert A. Hall, "Bartoli's 'Neolinguistica,'" *Lg.* 22 (1946): 281. Cf. J. K. Chambers and Peter Trudgill, *Dialectology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980), pp. 163ff.

18. See, for example, Greenberg, *Essays*, p. 47.

19. See Chapter 2, no. 8.

20. Cf. p. 39.

21. See Bynon, *Historical Linguistics*, pp. 217–232; and Stephen A. Kaufman, *The Akkadian Influences on Aramaic*, Assyriological Studies, vol. 19 (Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press, 1974), pp. 19–22.

22. Isidore Dyen, "[Review of Dahl, *Malgache et maanjan*]," *Lg.* 29 (1953): 580.

23. Greenberg, *Essays*, pp. 51, 53.

24. Bloomfield, *Language*, p. 342; Dyen, *Lg.* 29 (1953): 580–581; and Greenberg, *Essays*, p. 53.

25. On the latter, see Paul Joüon, *Grammaire de l'hébreu biblique* (Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1923), p. 368 n. 2.

26. See Henry M. Hoenigswald, "Criteria for the Subgrouping of Languages," in *Ancient Indo-European Dialects*, ed. Henrik Birnbaum and Jaan Puhvel (Berkeley/Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1966), pp. 6–7. Cf. Greenberg, *Essays*, p. 50.

27. Cf., for example, I. J. Gelb, "Thoughts about Ibla," *SMS* 1/1 (1977): 17.

55. Franz Rosenthal, "[Review of Dion, *La langue*]," *JBL* 95 (1976): 154; and Dion, *JNES* 37 (1978): 118.

56. So D. S. Margoliouth, "Language of the Old Testament," in *A Dictionary of the Bible*, ed. James Hastings, 4 vols. (New York/Edinburgh: Charles Scribner's Sons/T. & T. Clark, 1900), 3:30.

57. See already Friedrich, "Zum Phönizisch-Punischen," *ZS* 2 (1923): 4–5; and Harris, *Development*, p. 94. Cf. Rosenthal, "[Review of Friedrich, *PPG*]," *JAOS* 72 (1952): 171–172.

58. For the lexical implication of mutual intelligibility, see Harold Hickerson, Glen D. Turner, and Nancy P. Hickerson, "Testing Procedures for Estimating Transfer of Information among Iroquois Dialects and Languages," *IJAL* 18 (1952): 1–8.

59. For a developmental view of the continuum, see Friedrich, *Scientia* 84 (1949): 220–223; and Moscati, in *Studi . . . Levi Della Vida*, p. 218. See also J. Hoftijzer, "Interpretation and Grammar," in *Aramaic Texts from Deir 'Alla*, ed. J. Hoftijzer and G. van der Kooij, *Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui*, vol. 19 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1976), pp. 300, 301.

60. Alkim, cited in Irene J. Winter, "On the Problems of Karatepe: The Reliefs and Their Context," *AS* 29 (1979): 134 n. 87.

61. Sekine, *JSS* 18 (1973): 215. See also Bloomfield, *Language*, p. 334.

62. See, generally, Wolfram von Soden, "Zur Einteilung der semitischen Sprachen," *WZKM* 56 (1960): 190.

63. See William L. Moran, "The Hebrew Language in its Northwest Semitic Background," in *The Bible and the Ancient Near East*, ed. G. Ernest Wright (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., 1961), p. 59.

64. For the reasoning, see Bloomfield, *Language*, p. 340; Hans Kurath, *Handbook of the Linguistic Geography of New England*, 2nd ed. (New York: AMS Press, 1973), p. 5; and Chambers and Trudgill, *Dialectology*, p. 109.

65. So, already, Brockelmann, *GvG* 1:§109α. Cf. Gotthelf Bergsträsser, "Das hebräische Präfix *ʔ*," *ZAW* 29 (1909): 41–45. See also p. 150 n. 55a.

66. Could this general phonetic change be the origin of [ð] in BH ראש "head" and כֶּשֶׁת "sheep"?

67. In terms of the dialectal continuum of Syria-Palestine, northern Hebrew may lie between standard Phoenician and Ammonite, in contrast to the position of southern Hebrew on the same continuum.

68. Interestingly, however, both standard Phoenician and Old Aramaic exclusively shared a special plural formation of final weak nouns (3:7) and jointly replaced \**bāniy-* by \**bānay-* in the masc. plural (undetermined) participle (3:23g).

69. So, for example, William Labov, in Pavle Ivić, "Structure and Typology of Dialectal Differentiation," in *Proceedings of the Ninth International Congress of Linguists . . . 1962*, ed. Horace G. Lunt, *Janua Linguarum, Series Maior*, vol. 12 (London/The Hague/Paris: Mouton & Co., 1964), p. 127.

70. For NWS, see, for example, Harris, *Grammar*, p. 69.

71. See already Rosenthal, *AF*, p. 1; Kaufman, *Akkadian Influences*, p. 9 (cf. *ibid.*, p. 155); and the literature cited in n. 33 above. See also Harris, *Grammar*, p. 10.

72. The correspondences of medial \*iy, however, may have differed within southern Hebrew-speaking communities. See above, p. 70 n. 136.

73. See, generally, Bloomfield, *Language*, p. 343; and Bynon, *Historical Linguistics*, p. 183.

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## About This Book

Garr's classic study on dialect geography of the Levant was the first book-length attempt in 45 years to follow in the steps of Zellig Harris (*The Development of the Canaanite Dialects*). This Eisenbrauns reprint makes this masterly, standard reference work available once again to students of the Canaanite languages.

The book opens with an introduction that explains the methodology used, a survey of past studies, the corpus of texts used in the study, and Garr's goals. The next three chapters provide a comprehensive list of phonological, morphological, and syntactical features, which are then gathered into a comprehensive table and analyzed for their relevance to classification of dialects. Conclusions and a rich bibliography follow, as well as indexes of subjects, texts cited, and words.

## Praise

"This study has achieved the primary goal of scientific research, which is to introduce new ideas based on vast knowledge and sound analyses, and thus to provoke and challenge further study." — Shlomo Izre'el, in *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*



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